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I have learn'd Your quotations out of
This metrical Bill of Fayre as a
Motto to a Chapter or two to Finnock
School Bill of Fayre in some other
works to which I forgot.

A

METRICAL

HISTORY OF ENGLAND,

&c. &c.

Bell Esq.^re pinx.

F. Scriven sculp.

R.^t Hon.^ble Lord Moira.

Published by J. B. Bell & J. De Camp, 11, Catherine S.^t Strand. Feb.^y 1. 1808

A

METRICAL

History of England;

OR,

RECOLLECTIONS, IN RHYME,

Of some of the most prominent Features in our

NATIONAL CHRONOLOGY,

FROM THE

LANDING OF JULIUS CÆSAR,

TO THE

COMMENCEMENT OF THE REGENCY,

IN 1812.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

"Their Names, their Years, spelt by th' unlettered Muse." GRAY.

BY THOMAS DIBDIN,

AUTHOR OF "THE JEW AND THE DOCTOR," "THE CABINET," AND OTHER DRAMATIC ATTEMPTS.

Authorities from Hume, Hollingshead, Smollett, Salmon, Dr. Goldsmith, Gibbon, Dr. Henry, J. P. Andrews, De Moleville, Lockman, Rapin, &c. &c.

With Characteristic Quotations, Illustrative Annotations, &c. &c.

London:

PRINTED FOR THE PROPRIETOR,

BY JOSEPH HARTNELL, WINE-OFFICE-COURT, FLEET-STREET:

SOLD BY LONGMAN, HURST, REES, ORME, AND BROWNE, PATERNOSTER ROW;

BY R. W. ELLISTON, AT HIS ESTABLISHMENT IN BRISTOL;

AND BY ALL OTHER BOOKSELLERS.

1813.

DA
32.9
D54m
v.1

TO

George and Joseph Ranking, Esqrs.

My Worthy Friends,

Should the following Bagatelle be permitted to occupy a place in your Parlour Windows, it will attain a reflected respectability, similar to that which your unaffected and hearty kindnesses have conferred upon its Author.

The exemplary mode of education practised in your families, will be, to a large, yet select, circle, a most unexceptionable guarantee that nothing of immoral or invidious tendency can pervade any Work

 admitted

775503

admitted under your roof; and should the Author's name create a suspicion that you have, in the present instance, for the first time, patronized Nonsense, it will at least be anticipated as Nonsense of a very harmless description.

A Song, an Epigram, or a Distich, have frequently effected indelible impressions on the minds of Youth; and should this be deemed a Book not unuseful to Children, I shall have solid reason to be satisfied.

The brief, but comprehensive, Ballad of the "Chapter of Kings," written by Mr. Collins, gave me a wish to attempt versifying (on a scale scarcely more enlarged) the leading points of our History, with an humble endeavour to vary the style, as the colour of circumstances to be depicted in each Reign might seem to require; and, from the presumption that a Narrative alternately relieved by a Comic Song,

Song, a Tragic Tale, or an irregular Poem, might impress on some juvenile memories a species of Index to the voluminous labours of genuine Historians.

From the regular and respectable class of Reviewers I do not feel of sufficient consequence to apprehend much; and to those genuine literary characters who probe and prune with the benign and useful intentions which actuate a humane Surgeon, or skilful Horticulturist, I bow with unfeigned respect, and entreat the honor and favor of their friendly admonitions.

To the unsparing host, who write with the impression that positive abuse will experience a speedier sale, and cost infinitely less trouble, than discriminative candour, or who find it imperiously convenient to approve or satyrize in proportion to the interest their Bookseller may have in what they undertake to dissect,

I would spare much time and trouble by offering for their choice, with due deference and humility, a few ready-manufactured sketches of

ANTICIPATED ANALYZATION.

No. 1.—"The Work before us is another lament-
"able instance that Book-makers ought to read a little
"before they attempt to write; had this woefully
"neglected principle been attended to by the fabricator
"of the subjects under present discussion, we should
"have escaped the PAIN of remarking, that the
"introduction of Newspapers and Hackney Coaches
"at the period of the Heptarchy, and, above all, putting
"a vulgar modern Ditty, intitled "Nobody coming to
"marry me" into the mouth of such a Monarch as King
"Henry the Eighth, (actually the first who obtained
"the glorious Title of *Fidei Defensor*, or, Defender of
"the Faith) are evidently most ignorant and indefensible
"Anachronasms;—we speak from genuine information
"and can assure our Readers, on authorities not to be
"disputed, that Hackney Coaches were not licenced
"till the Year 1625,* nor do we despair of ascertaining
"the very name of the very man who obtained the very
"first Plate or Number.—With respect to the Ballad of

* Vide Tablet of Memory.—Peacock's Pocket Books.—*Cum multis aliis.*

"Nobody

"Nobody coming to marry me," we are certain, made "its first appearance, Anno, One Thousand Seven "Hundred and something, published by Longman "and Broderip, 26, Cheapside, Price 1s. and reviewed "among other Works of equal importance and celebrity "in our 46th Number of the

Critical Cat o'Nine Tails.

No. 2.—"Some of the "METRICAL" Attempts at "Poetry are better than others, and, as it frequently "happens in works of this kind, part of the version is "not so good as the rest.—We shall in our next give a "specimen of the *worst* couplets, the *best* not being "worth perusal."

Bibliothecal Blunderbuss.

No. 3.—"This Melange, being the avowed pro-"duction of a modern, would-be-Dramatist, we shall "briefly say, that it commences with a Title-Page, and "the only succeeding word likely to be read with pleasure "is FINIS.—The residue of the Work (being a perfect "(or rather an imperfect) Parenthesis) may of course "be omitted without loss to the Reader."

Any little Review.

No. 4.—"Not having perused the Book, we do "not conceive ourselves fairly entitled to recommend it."

Equitable Epitome.

No. 5.—

No. 5.—"There is neither novelty of Character, "Plot, nor Incident, to be discovered in the whole Book; "which is merely a versified list of notorious Facts, "pilfered from every Historian the Plagiarist could lay "his hands on."

Touchstone of Truth.

I purposely omit the affectionate and well-meant incisions (Corrections I mean) of the "Tomahawk," "Scalping Knife," "Cleaver," and "Scarificator," and shall conclude with a sample of castigation, in perspective, from the

Pedantic Exterminator.

"The *Cacoethes Scribendi* hath attained its *acme*.— "The Author in his "*Otium* sine *dignitate*" hath scribbled "certain lines "*tant pis*" for his Readers, (should he "have any) and *tant mieux* for the Pastry-Cooks and "Trunk-makers, seeing he hath published them.

Although short, its tediousness makes it "*un Ouvrage de longue haleine*" never to be prescribed by critical Doctors as ψυχης ιατρειον, or mental physic.

"We seek not to break a Butterfly on the Wheel,

"but

"but the Title-Page, *ad captandum vulgus*, is merely "intended *Nugis addere Pondus*, and promises too much. "We may say with the Italians, *Ogni Medaglio ha il suo "reverso*, or with the Spaniards, *Aviendo pregonado vino "venden Vinagre*;—in short "*Parturiunt montes nascitur "ridiculus Mus.*"

BOILEAU tells us, *Le plus sage est celui qui ne pense point l'etre*, and CUMBERLAND makes his Belcour say "if I knew a man who "thought more humbly of me than I do "of myself, I would take up his opinion and "forego my own;"—the last sentence is expressive of more diffidence than I may find credit for, but I am really so little anxious, in this or any other shape, to encounter the hazard of public comment, that, were it not for certain duties, my intrusions would quickly and permanently cease;—could I ensure one moiety of the sum for suppressing my Work I am to receive for its publication, you would not be troubled with this Address; and who knows, but some public-spirited Deplorer of the dearth of modern genius, after

after this declaration, may treat with me for the Copy-right of a future threatened production, on the principle of paying a vociferous ballad-singer, or music-grinding annoyance, to quit your door?

Be my reception in this new form what it may, I ardently hope that you, and a few other highly-respected individuals, will not arraign the intentions of

Your sincere

and obliged Friend,

THOMAS DIBDIN.

Hill-Cottage,
Betchworth, Surrey, 1812.

ENGLAND, &c.

INTRODUCTION.

I.

At humble distance from Apollo's shrine,
A wandering minstrel seeks it in the dark,
And, all unworthy of the flame divine
That warms his betters, asks but for a spark:
Fain would he soar, as mounts the matin lark,
But for a Pegasus who ne'er, God wot,
Had wings to bear him up beyond the mark
Of sluggish walk, or jolting doggrel trot,
Yet drive this jade he must, tho', faith, he'd rather not.

II.

Of Cam and Isis, (whose inspiring streams
By L.L.D.; B.A.; A.M.; invoked,

have

Have so besprinkled their poetic dreams,
They've sung, like Maro, or, like Flaccus, joked)
Ne'er may the sources be by blockheads choked,
Where wit, in classic wreaths, the Sisters twine;
Had but my cranium in such springs been soak'd,
Oh! Alma Mater! tho' no son of thine,
My worthy mother's son had better woo'd the Nine.

III.

Yet deem not CAM, that ign'rance quite pervades
My brain, tho' never in thy halls refined;
Nor ISIS, think thine academic shades,
Tho' out of sight, were always out of mind;
Thoughts of ye both, to neither tho' consigned,
Wou'd put my infant bosom in a flutter;
For oft my taste was seriously inclined,
With how much *goût* I'm half ashamed to utter,
To Oxford sausage rich; and curious Cambridge butter.

IV.

A sort of wish for these, may yet remain.
(There's no accounting for the tastes of men),
Else had I spared the luckless reader's pain

In

In following thro' its cheerless path, my pen ;
Nor had I roused that lion in his den,
Yclep'd Reviewer ; better had I halt ;—
But Bard, and Critic, both eat now and then,
And if Bard's errors furnish Critic's food,
He'll feel, though not allow, they've done some good.

V.

One glorious thought my meditation chears,
A hope that gives some courage to the Muse,
A claim she dares to make, because she fears
No Critic living can the plea refuse ;
Reader, you may reject it if you chuse,
But that you'll scarcely think of, when you're told,
In spite of all who pity and abuse,
'Tis INSIGNIFICANCE hath made her bold,
'Gainst Censure, hissing hot, or Commendation cold.

☞ The Reader will perceive how frequently the Author is indebted for historical annotations to the very excellent History of Great Britain, "connected with the Chronology of Europe," by James Petit Andrews, F. A. S.; as also to the "Civil and Military History of Great Britain," and "Historical Anecdotes," by the same Author; likewise to the "Catalogue of Royal and Noble Authors," by Horace Walpole; the "Medulla Historiæ Anglicanæ," &c.&c. The miniature attempts to point out, by abridged examples, the progress of English Poetry, necessarily cease at the period of Charles the Second's Restoration, the Works of most Authors of that and subsequent periods being generally known.

The dates of every incident occurring in the History, were correctly and progressively placed opposite the relation of them, (as in the three last Reigns), but it has since been thought better to detach them from the version, and place them at the end of the Second Volume, in the form of a Chronological Table of Contents.

ENGLAND.

PART THE FIRST.

From the Aborigines to the End of the Heptarchy.

The Ancient Britons.—Four Love Songs of the Young Aborigines—the Romans—Caractacus—Boadicea—the Saxons—the Heptarchy—Kent—Antiquity of Punning—Northumberland—East Anglia—Mercia, Essex, Sussex, Wessex.

Bold were those Britons, who, the careless sons
Of Nature, roam'd the forest-bounds, at once
Their verdant city, high embowering fane,
And the gay circle of their woodland wars. THOMSON.

Their's was the science of a martial race,
To shape the lance, or, decorate the shield:
Ev'n the fair virgin stain'd her native grace,
To give new horrors to the tented field. SHENSTONE.

THE ANCIENT BRITONS.

When Britons "first at Heaven's command,
Arose," by chronicles we're told,
They wore no cov'ring, thro' the land,
But PAINT to guard their bodies from the cold.

The Celtic beaux, of frame robust,
With Celtic belles, almost as stout,
Thro' wind, and rain, and sun, and dust,
Thus only, kept the weather out:

'Till men grew sick of paint, and cou'dn't bear it,
Some of the ladies (I believe) still wear it:

Not that the ancient warriors of our Isle
Wou'd fly their colours;—no—the sturdy elves,
(Spite of the critic's pun-detecting smile)
Beheld their colours fly, and not themselves.

Folks who were rich were painted mortal fine,
With fish, and fowl, and suns, and moons, and beasts;
And those best painted oftenest ask to dine,
And burn fat prisoners at Druid-feasts.

Those who were poor, or very much in debt,
For oil and turpentine, Historians say,
Were merely WHITE WASHED, 'tis a custom yet,
Much in observance* at this very day.

* "More honoured in the breach." SHAKESPEARE.

Then

Then too, as now, ladies, when least attired,
For what they did *not* wear, were most admired.

" Yet ev'n these charms from insult to protect,
" Some club-arm'd Warrior stood, terrific, nigh,
" With uncouth forms, and shapeless monsters deck'd,
" Who thus implored his mistress, with a sigh :*

(Observe, that, when these rough-hewn rhymes they sung,
The ancient Britons were but very young.)

* Vide Gray's Elegy in a Country Church Yard.

CŒDWALLA to EDDA.

An Ancient British Love-Song.

I.

By those raven-dyed ringlets that float round thy form,
And circle that heaven thy beauties display ;
By that face, like the sun-beam that peeps thro' the storm,
Our hopes to encourage, our fears to allay ;
By that dove, dearest Edda, pourtrayed on thy breast ;—
With one smile of assent let Cœdwalla be blest !
Druid Chiefs my suit befriend,
While the misletoe I twine,
Let the sacred flame ascend,
Say, shall Edda's charms be mine ?

II.

By the speed of my coursers in hunting and war,
Whose trembling impatience for action I prize ;
By the scythes on my chariot, less dangerous far,
Than the shafts dearest Edda can dart from her eyes,

By

By the groans of the wounded, the shades of the slain,
I beseech thee, dear Edda, to shorten my pain!
Holy Druid Chiefs, befriend,
While the misletoe I twine,
See the sacred flame ascend,
Edda must, and shall, be mine.

EDDA to CŒDWALLA.

Being the Answer of an Ancient British Damsel in her Teens.

I.

Chief of thy daring tribe, with pride I see
Those looks, of late so dreadful to the foe,
Soften to kindness, when they bend on me,
As melts, in cheering Spring, the mountain's snow.

II.

Yes, seek the altars of our warlike sires,
With rev'rence bend before each hallowed shrine,
Pure be thy passion, as their sacred fires,
And, Heaven approving, Edda shall be thine.

These were their sentiments, or *may* have been,
'Ere Britons found the way to Gretna Green;
But these, however homely, were the strains
Of lovers of *haut ton*, and form'd with pains.
When meaner folks by Cupid were perplexed,
Haply a ditty, simple as the next,
Might have been carol'd to a lady's maid.
By some bold serjeant, corporal, or the like;
Should it want force your faculties to strike,
Remember WAR, not WRITING, was his trade.

COURTSHIP of the CANAILLE.

I.

My love's so like a fine field day,
No colour does she lack;
But varied, as the rainbow gay,
She's straiter in the back.

II.

Her nose is red, her lips are blue,
Her chin as green as grass;
And what of saffron colour'd hue,
Can Ila's neck surpass?

My

III.

My heart how soft it's grown to prove,
Next prisoner I take,
I'll shut him in an image, love,
And burn him for thy sake.

IV.

Or shou'd we e'er be put to flight,
And savage foes give chace,
I'll pierce thy bosom with delight,
To save thee from disgrace.

The MAIDEN's REPLY.

I.

My love, of pilfering Danes the dread,
What warrior may abide?
A lion's painted on his head,
A dragon decks his side.

II.

A wolf grins lovely on his chest,
A serpent twines his arms,
And captives' hides which form his vest
Add softness to his charms.

When

III.

When forth he strides with martial glee,
No peasant dares to laugh;
He wears a bull upon each knee,
A cow on either calf.

IV.

I know a little Druid's cell,
I know the Druid too,
And, if we ask him, who can tell,
What gold for us may do?

V.

They say true lovers oft he weds,
And with a sacred bough
Sprinkles cold water on their heads,
To warm the mutual vow.

Such were our ancestors, or such I've sung 'em,
Till VENI, VIDI, VICI, came among 'em.
No NELSON on the well-defended main
Was there, to beat the Roman back again;

No

No ABERCROMBIE—but,—the countless names
Of heroes, who'd have wrapt their fleet in flames,
O'erpower the Muse: Ah! had the least of those
Been placed between Britannia* and her foes;
CÆSAR had prov'd a baffled, beaten, fool,
Had fled with foul dishonour from our shore;
Nor had I, and some thousand dunces more,
Been, through his Commentaries, whipt at school.

* England, including Wales, was, at the invasion of the Romans, divided into the following seventeen states:

CALLED BY THE ROMANS,

1 The Danmonii; now, the counties of Cornwall and Devon.
2 Durotriges; Dorsetshire.
3 Belgæ; Somerset, Wilts, part of Hants.
4 Attrebatii; Berks.
5 Regni; Surrey, Sussex, and remaining part of Hants.
6 Cantii; Kent.
7 Dobuni; Gloucester and Oxon.
8 Cattieuchlani; Bucks, Bedford, and Herts.
9 Trinobantes; Essex, and Middlesex.
10 Iceni; Suffolk, Norfolk, Huntingdon, and Cambridge.
11 Coritani; Northampton, Leicester, Rutland, Lincoln, Nottingham, and Derby.
12 Cornavi; Warwick, Worcester, Stafford, Chester, and Shropshire.
13 The Silures; Radnor, Brecon, Glamorgan, Monmouth, and Hereford.
14 Demetæ; Pembroke, Cardigan, Caermarthen.
15 Ordovices; Montgomery, Merioneth, Caernarvon, Flint, and Denbigh.
16 The Brigantes; York, Durham, Lancashire, Westmoreland, and Cumberland.
17 Ottadini; Northumberland to the Tweed.

THE

THE ROMANS.

A. C. 55.

"The Romans in England, once did sway,"

Ballad, by COLLINS.

It was about fifty-five years before the Christian Æra that Rome, at the height of her glory as a Republic, determined to add Britain to her Empire.

Lucan, Horace, Tacitus, and Tibullus dissent from the idea of the *absolute Conquest of Britain.* The latter says:—

"Te manet invictus Romana Marte Britannus."

Vide J. P. ANDREWS.

"Witness the toil,
"The Blood of Ages, bootless to secure
"Beneath an Empire's yoke a stubborn Isle,
"Disputed hard, and never quite subdu'd."

THOMSON.

WELL, CÆSAR came, saw, conquer'd, and went home,
Came back, return'd, and met his fate in Rome;
'Tis said, he somewhat civilized our sires,
Quench'd, for a time, their sacrificial fires;
Gave some slight notion of domestic life,
And taught the use of clothes to maid and wife.
But yet, whate'er improvement they obtained
Was bought with FREEDOM, for the Romans reign'd,

When

When CÆSAR fell, AUGUSTUS, fond of peace,
By acquiescence, bade our burthens cease;

TIBERIUS, jealous of his General's fame,
Left Britain all her freedom but the name;
Crack-brain'd CALIGULA, like modern France,
In big bravado, bade his powers advance;
Then too, like Gaul, forgot to keep his word,
And, loudly threatening—sheathed th' invading
sword.

Not so when CLAUDIUS bore imperial sway,
[A. D. 43]
He bent the stubborn island to obey;
Nor bold CARACTACUS, his country's pride,
Nor bravest chieftains fighting by his side,
Prevail'd before the legionary band,
Whose iron discipline subdued the land;
While the great victim to a conqueror's laws,
Greater than King, when chain'd in FREEDOM's
cause,
From CÆSAR's self extorts deserv'd applause.
[A. D. 50.]

When

When NERO's sceptre, o'er the world, began
To prove a dæmon blended with a man,
MONA, to tyrant priesthood only known,
The Druid's senate, sanctum, and their throne,
Became the seat of war;—destruction flew
O'er the devoted sanguinary crew;
Their fates we mourn not, they, whose blood-
stain'd knife,
In mock religion* prey'd on human life.
Whose pow'r, increasing thro' successive reigns,
For centuries had held the mind in chains;
Worthy to die on that polluted spot
Where Virtue was, in Virtue's name, forgot.

But thou, whose offspring, neither sex nor age
Preserv'd, from more than barb'rous Roman rage,
Great BOADICEA, glory of thy race,
Britannia's honor, and thy foe's disgrace;
In burning fancy I behold each fight
Where female valour warr'd for Albion's right:
Thy very fall perpetuates thy fame,
And SUETONIUS' laurels droop with shame.

* Among other curious impositions practised on their devotees, the Druids were in the habit of borrowing large sums of them, to be repaid in the other world.—"Druidæ pecuniam mutuo accipiebant in posteriore vita reddituri." PATRICIUS.

VESPASIAN'S

VESPASIAN's chieftains kept the land in awe,
But soften'd martial into milder law;
AGRICOLA, tho' form'd for warlike strife,
Revered the decencies of social life;
He chaced GALGACUS* o'er the Northern plain,
And bound his footsteps with a mural chain.
ADRIAN and SEVERUS the work pursued,
A work extinct, and ne'er to be renewed.
No wall again shall British hearts divide,
Whose UNION, is their best, their safest, pride.

"Ye gentlemen of England," who criticise the times,
Tho', heav'n knows, they must be rather better than these rhymes;
Give ear unto my narrative, and it will plainly shew,
That things were ten times worse almost two thousand years ago.

* Agricola totally defeated Galgacus, who commanded the last Army the Country cou'd raise, reduced almost the whole of England and Scotland to the denomination of a Roman Province, and began to build the famous Barrier called Picts'-Wall.

For

For Rome grew a little too big,
And the people, like most people, grumbled;
At grievances all had a dig,
'Till down the whole edifice tumbled.

The nations around, who'd been robb'd of their pelf,
Their freedom, their name, or what not,
At Rome were so busy, each helping itself,
Our Island alone was forgot.

KINGS OF BRITAIN,

From the invasion of Julius Cesar to the departure of the Romans.

(ACCORDING TO LUFFMAN.)

	ANNO A.C.		A.D.
1 Cassivelaunus.....	63	9 Severus (Emperor) ...	211
2 Theomantius	50	10 Bassianus	218
3 Cymbeline	24	11 Carausius	225
	A.D.	12 Alectus	282
4 Guiderius	45	13 Aselepiodorus	262
5 Arviragus	73	14 Coilus II.	289
6 Marius...	125	15 Constantius (Emperor)	310
7 Coilus	179	16 Constantine(Emperor)	329
8 Lucius	207		

THE

THE BRITONS.

THE Romans all gone, or of pow'r bereft,
Each Briton rejoic'd with his brother;
'Till, finding they'd not one competitor left,
They wisely fell out with each other.

Protection with unity ever will fly,
The Wall too was idly forgot;
And, leaping its boundary, hourly you'd spy
A stern Pict* or a muckle bra' Scot.

"The groans of the Britons" are mournfully sent
"To ÆTIUS,† thrice Consul," who sighs; 446
But turns the ambassadors back as they went,
Without one single word of supplies.

* The Picts, (so called from Pictich, a Plunderer, and not from Picti, painted) and the Scots, from Scuite, a Wanderer, in the Celtic Tongue, were only different tribes of Caledonians.
Dr. HENRY.

† Ætius, Prefect of Gaul, was thus addressed by "The Groans of the wretched Britons, to the thrice-appointed Consul, Ætius.—The Barbarians drive us into the Sea, and the Sea forces us back on the swords of the Barbarians." Ætius was too closely engaged in opposing Attila, the renowned King of the Huns, to spare them any attention. DESTRUCTION of the BRITTAINES.

Each

Each Briton, now dejected and a slave,
Flies to the ocean from the foe's attack;
Nor less relentless, the destructive wave
Devours or hurls them to their tyrants back.

KINGS OF ENGLAND,

From the departure of the Romans.

(ACCORDING TO LUFFMAN.)

	A. D.
Octavius	383
Maximinianus	391
Gratian	431
Constantine I.	446
Constantius	446
Vortigern, who introduced the SAXONS.	

THE SAXONS.

A. D. 447.

"A Nation known only to the Britons by their continued
"and successful acts of Piracy."

J. P. ANDREWS.

BUT hark! what foreign drum on THANET'S isle
Proclaims assistance? 'tis the Saxon band,
By HENGIST led, and HORSA;—see, they smile,
And greet their hosts, with false, insidious hand.

Not arms alone they bring, but specious art,
And beauty, too, must aid the plan they lay;
ROWENA, form'd to bear a nobler heart,
Can stoop a falling monarch to betray.*

Imprudent VORTIGERN! how much to blame!
What! yield a throne to WOMAN'S asking eye!

* The Saxons, it is supposed, gained great advantages over Britain by means of a foolish passion which the old Vortigern conceived for the young and beautiful ROWENA, niece to HENGIST "She presented him," (say our old Historians) "on her knee, with a cup of wine, saying 'Waes heal, hlaford cyning,' or, 'Be of health, Lord King'! to which Vortigern, being instructed in the custom, answered 'Drinc heal,' or, 'I drink your health'—This introduction led to the subsequent marriage of Rowena to Vortigern, who felt no more anxiety respecting the Saxon encroachments on his dominions. VERSTEGAN, &c. &c.

Had *I* been there,—I should have done the same,
But then, the prince was wrong,—and so am I.

Where, spreading far and wide, old SARUM's plain
Presents a prospect, like the boundless main,
The ruins of a once tremendous pile,
Where white-rob'd Druids held their orgies vile,
Yet rise upon the sight;—and here, 'tis said,
Where still repose in heaps, the slaughter'd dead,
Three hundred nobles of our drooping state,
Betray'd by HENGIST, met a savage fate.
STONE-HENGE yet called,—perhaps, the words impart
The traitor's *name*, and texture of his *heart*.

To VORTIGERN* deposed, his son† in vain
Succeeding fought to stem the Saxon tide;
In Ailsford's desp'rate battle, HORSA slain,
Adds to their names who for ambition died.
Weak VORTIGERN, restored to pow'rless name,
Yields HENGIST all the profit and the fame.

* The British Kings from Vortigern, till the settlement of the Saxons at the time of the Heptarchy, after which Wales became the seat of Government of the genuine Britons, were Aurelius, Ambrosius, Uther Pendragon, Arthur, Constantine II. Conan, Vortipor, Malyo, Coranus, Caractacus II. Cadwan, Cadwallan, Cadwallader;—for the succession of Welch Princes see the reign of Edward I.

† Vortimer.

I haste

I haste to pass the heart-afflicting page
That tells, in fine, how Saxon wiles prevail'd;
I turn the retrospect from that dark age,
When every manly, patriot, effort fail'd:
When British worth was driven to give place
To fancied friendship, and a foreign race.

The Saxons once well settled, sent, by dozens,*
For brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, and cousins:
Call'd *this* the sweetest island under heaven,
And split one little kingdom into seven.

* The Saxons seem to have anticipated the descriptive mode of naming the months adopted by the modern French Kalendar, the Floreal, Germinal, &c. of which, though more elegant, are not more expressive of the Seasons than the following:

DECEMBER—their first month was styled "*Midwinter Monath.*"
JANUARY—"*Aefter Yula,*" or, after Christmas.
FEBRUARY—"*Sol Monath,*" from the returning Sun.
MARCH—"*Rede*" or, "*Rethe Monath,*" Rugged Month.
APRIL—"*Easter Monath,*" from a Saxon Goddess, whose name we still preserve.
MAY—"*Trimilchi,*" from Cows being then milked thrice a day.
JUNE—"*Sere Monath,*" dry month.
JULY—"*Mæd Monath,*" the meads being then in their bloom.
AUGUST—"*Weod Monath,*" from the luxuriance of weeds.
SEPTEMBER—"*Hæfest,* (or, Harvest) *Monath.*"
OCTOBER—"*Winter Fyllith,*" from Winter approaching, with the full moon of that month.
NOVEMBER—"*Blot Monath,*" from the blood of Cattle slain that month, and stored for winter provisions.

THE HEPTARCHY.

"Indeed, Sir, we are seven."

WORDSWORTH.

"While undecided yet which part should fall,
"Which nation rise the glorious Lord of all."

CREECH'S LUCRETIUS.

ODD numbers are deem'd fortunate, we know,
And yet, 'tis odd enough they should be so;
The graces, muses, with their threes and nines,
Were dear to Pagan reverend divines.
The number *seven*, too, a stand has made;
Seven wonders once the universe displayed;
Seven deadly sins, seven sacraments assist,
Seven sleepers, and my readers in the list;
Seven days each week;—on seven if longer dwelling,
'Twill cost me seven too many lines the telling.
Seven kingdoms once our little isle admitted,
Each with a king, and queen, and courtiers, fitted.
East Anglia, Mercia, Essex, Sussex, Kent,
Northumberland, and Wessex; each extent
Mark'd carefully, of course, by sovereign order,
To settle rates of postage on the border.

Now

Now, for digression's sake, I'll simply ask,
Who, in each court, wou'd undertake the task
Of Clement-Cottrellizing? sure, no dunce,
Six English embassies to name at once.
The Plenipo from Persia, when with us,
Could ne'er create more diplomatic fuss;
The newspaper, when things unkindly went,
Announces "The Ambassador from KENT—
"Having received a warm official note,
"Has left this country—in a Gravesend boat."
"The ESSEX envoy, too, has turn'd his back,
"And quits the kingdom—in a neutral hack,
"Attended by a confidential friend,
"Whose passport goes no further than Mile-end."
"Bold SUSSEX, in a ministerial rage,
"Departs to-morrow—in the Brighton stage!"
"While great EAST-ANGLIA, flouncing like a dragon,
"Has taken places in the Norwich waggon."
Critics will smoke by this time, without doubt.
London and Essex both obey'd one king—
Agreed, grave sirs, and now the blunder's out,
Let my joke pass, and take your ample swing.

THE

THE KINGDOM OF KENT.

Began 457—Ended 823.—Metropolis, CANTERBURY.

"Kent, in the Commentaries Cæsar writ,
"Is term'd the civil'st place of all this isle:—
"Sweet is the country,—beauteous,—full of riches,—
"The people liberal,—valiant,—active,—worthy."

SHAKESPEARE.

GARDEN of Britain! whose white cliffs have named
Our island ALBION.—Kent! so justly famed
For bow-men, bishops, monks, and monasteries,
For warriors, watering-places, hops, and cherries.
I name thy monarchs of the Saxon race;
ESCUS, then OCTA, ruled in HENGIST'S place;
Next HERMENRIC, and ETHELBERT succeed;
The last, renowned for many a valiant deed,
But *most* renowned, that, to the Pagan's loss,
By AUSTIN taught, he rear'd the sacred cross,
[A. D. 597.]
His ear and heart inclin'd to Christian lore,
And light diffus'd, where darkness reign'd before.
St. Paul's Cathedral, form'd but rudely then, 604
First rose where now the spot is graced by WREN.

Two

Two well-form'd Englishmen were ask'd at Rome,
By Pontiff Gregory, to name their home.
"We're *Angli* called," the British spokesman cried.
"Say rather *Angeli*," the Pope replied.
"So *would* ye be, were you of Christian race."
And AUSTIN's mission, hence, 'tis said, took place.
This Gregory, most pious and most wise,
Made, at that time, three similar replies.*
We have thought proper to select but one,
To shew the Ancients not disdain'd a pun;
That even POPES, of Toleration full,
A joke enjoy'd, and patroniz'd a *bull.*
While this dull age, as duller people name it,
Sees wit, folks tell ye, winking in the socket,
And swears, who makes a pun, howe'er he frame it,

* Enquiring further the name of their Province, he was answered Deiri; (a district of Northumberland) "Deiri" replied he, "that is good; they are called to the Mercy of God from his Anger; that is, DE IRA." "But how is the King of that Province named?" He was told ÆLLA, or ALLA; "Alleluia!" cried he, "we must endeavor that the praises of God be sung in their Country." HUME.

The

With equal eagerness would pick a pocket.*
The son of Ethelbert, unlike his sire,
(To Woden's worship and incestuous fire
Basely devoted) scorn'd religion's ties,
And, in too-late repentance, clos'd his eyes.—
ERCOMBERT, EGBERT, LOTHAIRE, WIDRED, reign'd,
EADBERT and ETHELBERT the crown sustain'd;
Next ALRIC, EGBERT, CUTHRED, BALDRED, sway'd,
'Till one great EGBERT all the land obey'd.

* *Vide* Murphy's Grays-Inn Journal.

THE

KINGDOM OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

Began A.D. 547.—Ended 792.—Comprised two Kingdoms, Bernicia and Deira.—BAMBURGH and YORK were the Capitals.

SCENE of full many a desp'rate border fight!
(Where Northern Chiefs, in ancient order dight,
By PERCYS led, met gallant Scots in arms;—
Percys, for prowess fam'd and female charms,)
Thy first king ADELFRID historians name,
'Till conquest prov'd young EDWIN's better claim.
(Such just administration his, we're told,
Infants might safely bear uncounted gold!)
'Till slain by Mercian PENDA. Civil jars
Divide Northumbria; and continued wars
By OSRIC, EANFRID, OSWALD, OSWY, waged,
Destroyed those monarchs; nor less furious raged,
While EGFRID, ALFRED, OSRED, CELWOLF,—all,
Fought but to reign; and only reign'd to fall.

Like

Like OSWALD, MOLLO, AILRED, slain; deposed
Like CELWOLD, OSRED, ETHELBERT, they closed
A list of horrors, fated not to cease,
'Till EGBERT Union gave, and Union Peace.

THE

THE KINGDOM OF EAST-ANGLIA.

Began 575.—Ended 793.—Included Cambridgeshire, Suffolk, Norfolk, and the Isle of Ely.—DUNWICH was the Royal Residence.

MATTER of fact is dull, when told at best,
Then how can coarsest poetry digest
Such names as UFFA, EARPWOLD, and a host
Of EGRICS, ALDUFFS, ELFWOLDS; who but boast
Short usurpation, or sad length of feud,
With fate of friends and subjects' blood imbrued!
The sanction of the venerable Bede,
Who saw so many monarchs reign and bleed,
Pourtrays a cheerless picture of that time,
When crime expelled was but expelled by crime;
When chiefs, alternate doom'd to smile or groan,
Saw Anglia fall before the Mercian throne!
Yet here, 'mid deeds that sullied British earth,
CAMBRIDGE![*] thy seat of learning first had birth
From SIGEBERT;—like the eastern star it rose,
To cheer the dim horizon;—SIGEBERT's name
Derives from hence more enviable fame,
Than from a thousand fields of slaughter'd foes.

[*] By some supposed to have been founded by Edward the Elder.

THE

THE KINGDOM OF MERCIA.

Began 582.—Ended 847.—Contained Huntingdon, Rutland, Lincoln, Northampton, Leicester, Derby, Nottingham, Oxford, Chester, Salop, Gloucester, Worcester, Stafford, Warwick, Bucks, Bedford.—Metropolis, LEICESTER.

O'ER midland MERCIA, WIBBA rul'd;—his crown
He left to LEORL.—PENDA's chief renown
Sprang from his turbulence; by OSWY slain,
PEADA, and swift-succeeding sovereigns reign,
Then OFFA, well-beloved by CHARLEMAGNE.
WIGLAFF, last ruler, EGBERT taught to yield
Lord of his fate, and master of the field.

THE

THE KINGDOM OF ESSEX,

OR, EAST SAXONS.

Began 527.—Ended 746.—Contained Essex, Middlesex, Part of Herts.—Capital, LONDON.

OF ESSEX monarchs, little more is said
Than, that two kings among them lov'd white bread:*
That OFFA took great PENDA's child to wife,
And vow'd, when married, to be chaste for life:
That Westminster, if records are believ'd,
From SEBERT's gift her Abbey Church receiv'd;
By SLEDA govern'd first, by SIGERED last,
This state, with other states, to EGBERT pass'd.

* SEXTED and SEWARD, sons and conjunct successors to Sebert, grandson of Erkinwin, who founded the kingdom of Essex. To shew the rude manner of living in that age, Bede tells us, that these two kings expressed great desire to eat the white bread distributed by Mellitus, the bishop, at the communion. But on his refusing them, unless they would submit to be baptised, they expelled him their dominions.

HUME.

THE

THE KINGDOM OF SUSSEX,

OR, SOUTH SAXONS.

Began 490.—Ended 600.—Contained Sussex and Surrey.—Metropolis, CHICHESTER.

SUSSEX ! of modern summer beaux the boast,
When British beauty gladdens Albion's coast ;
Where waves transparent soften, more than hide,
Those charms, encircled by the happy tide.
Sussex ! which erst saw conqu'ring William land,
And subject England to his iron hand.
Thine ancient chronicles have less in store,
Than the imperfect legends sung before ;
A long parenthesis of names, I ween
From ŒLLA down to ADELWALCH is seen ;
'Till EGBERT's, paramount by all confess'd,
Like Aaron's pow'rful rod engulphs the rest.

THE

THE KINGDOM OF WESSEX,

OR, WEST SAXONS.

Began 519.—Ended 1066,—Comprised Hants, Berks, Wilts, Somerset, Dorset, Devon, Part of Cornwall, and the Isle of Wight.—Chief City, WINCHESTER.

A RACE of warlike princes, whose success
This realm increas'd, and other realms made less,
From CERDIC and his sons, to BRITHRIC reign'd,
And still accession of domain obtain'd.
WESSEX each neighbouring monarch could controul,
And spread, like snows that gather as they roll.
'Till EGBERT's genius, by misfortune taught,
In camps and courts each gainful lesson caught;
By travel tutor'd, and by woes made wise,
By others' fall instructed how to rise,

Egbert

Egbert securely mounted England's throne,
And made the Seven Kingdoms all his own.*

[A. D. 828.]

*———Though Egbert became Monarch of England, he was not perfectly absolute;—he actually possessed Wessex, Sussex, Kent, and Essex, which had been peopled by Saxons and Jutes, and contented himself with preserving the sovereignty over the other three Kingdoms, (originally inhabited by the Angles) and permitting them to be governed by Kings who were his vassals.

END OF PART THE FIRST.

ENGLAND.

PART THE SECOND.

From the Union of the Seven Kingdoms to the Death of Edgar, surnamed the Peaceable.

CONTENTS.

Egbert—Ethelwolf—the Danes—Ethelbald and Ethelbert—Ethered, or Ethelred—Alfred the Great—Edward the Elder—Athelstan—Edmund—Edred—St. Dunstan—Edwy—Edgar the Peaceable—Three Love Stories of him—Elfrida.

SUMMARY OF THE REIGN OF

EGBERT.

Began his reign over the West Saxons, A. D. 800; over England, in 828. Married Eadburgha, an English Lady. Had Issue, Ethelwolf, Ethelstan, and St. Editha. Died, February 4th, 836. Buried at Winchester.

Principal Events.

Union of the Seven Kingdoms. Danes land in the Isle of Shepey. Defeat Egbert at Charmouth; are defeated by him at Hengsdown-Hill, and compelled to quit the Island.

Eminent Persons.

Earls Osmond and Dudda. Bishops Wigfurth and Herefurth.

Cotemporary Sovereigns.

Pope.

Gregory IV. A. D. 828.

Emperors of the East.

Michael II. 821. Theophilus I. 829.

Emperor of the West and King of France.

Lewis I. 814.

Kings of Scotland.

Congallus III. 824. Dongallus 829.
Alpinus 834.

EGBERT.

" ———— Rules the num'rous band,
" And crowded nations wait his dread command."
POPE'S HOMER.

EGBERT o'er Kings subdu'd scarce 'gan to reign,
E're he's invaded by the savage Dane*.
CHARMOUTH, in Dorsetshire, supplied the field
Where British chiefs to foreign leaders yield †.
Yet, soon avenged, the English blood they spill;
A year not pass'd, when famous Hengsdown-Hill
Proves, to the northern spoilers dear bought cost,
That EGBERT cou'd regain what late he lost.
The King in peace lived five succeeding years,
And his best epitaph was ENGLAND'S TEARS ‡.

* The Danes first landed in 789, and were so little known that a peace officer, at Portland, asked them, in the name of his King, (Brithric,) what they did there? unused to the checks of magistracy, these uncivilized rovers murdered the intruder, plundered the country, and retired unmolested.
H. HUNT, *Saxon Chronology.*

† Had it not been for this unfortunate battle, (in which the Bishops Wigfurth and Herefurth, and the Earls Dudda and Osmond were slain,) Egbert would have added North Wales to his dominions, having already over-run the country to the foot of Snowdon. J. P. ANDREWS.

‡ The following was inscribed on a chest containing his and other royal bones, at Winchester:

Hic Rex EGBERTUS pausat cum Rege KENULPHO,
Nobis egregia munera uterque tulit.

SUMMARY OF THE REIGN OF

ETHELWOLF.

Originally a Monk and Bishop of Winchester, absolved of his vows by Gregory IV. Began to reign A. D. 836. Married twice, first to Osburgha, an English Lady, by whom he had issue, Ethelbald, Ethelbert, Ethelred, and Alfred: he afterwards married Judith, daughter of the Emperor Charles the Bald. Died January 13th, 857. Buried at Winchester.

Principal Events.

England much infested with the Danes. The King makes Pilgrimage to Rome. Divides the Kingdom between his Sons.

Eminent Persons.

Wolfhere, Cethelhelm, and Ceorle, Governors of Provinces, who defeat the Danes.

Cotemporary Sovereigns.

Popes.

Gregory IV. A. D. 828. Sergius II. 844.
Leo IV. 847. Benedick III. 855.

Emperors of the East.

Theophilus I. 829. Michael III. 842.

Emperors of the West and Kings of France.

Lewis I. 814. Lotharius, 840.
Lewis II. 855.

Kings of Scotland.

Alpinus, 834. Kennethus II. 839.

ETHELWOLF.

"The Danes are landed."

HOME.

THE warwhoop echoes still our Island round,
And, as the surge encroaching on the land,
Gives note of mischief by terrific sound,
Like wave on wave, the robbers crowd to land.
The Danes! The Danes! the young and aged cry,
And mothers "press their infants" as they fly.*

The pirate parties, spreading far and wide,
Avoid our armies, and our powers deride:
Then to their barks return, like loaded bees,
And, with our ravish'd treasure, cross the seas.

* Nothing could be more dreadful than the manner in which these fierce barbarians carried on their incursions; they spared neither age nor sex, and each commander urged the soldiers to inhumanity. Oliver, a celebrated chieftain, gained, from his dislike to the favorite amusement of his soldiers, (that of tossing children on the points of their spears,) the contemptuous surname of BURNAKAL, or, "the Preserver of Children."

BARTHOLIN.

Oh,

Oh, had but then some tight built ships, and tars,
Like modern TRIGGES, and TROLLOPES, round them cruised:
How brief had been their predatory wars,
What trouble had my readers been excused!

O'er Thanet, now the scene of summer mirth,
Where, erst, the world's imperial eagle flew,
Where the white steed on Saxon banners came,
The Danish raven's wing is spread;
And an unsparing and remorseless crew,
By Scandanavian chieftains led,
Demand in Kent to share, with British birth,
"A local habitation and a name."
While ETHELWOLF, who *shou'd* have made them run,
(As gallic navies since at NELSON's fame),
Gave to ATHELSTAN, as his eldest son,
One half the Kingdom—and ('twas more than shame!)
Instead of watching England's weal at home,
He went on pious pilgrimage to Rome.
To Rome, who having then no arms to rule us,
Deputed Monks to govern and befool us.

And

And, well I wot, the Pope was glad to see him,
Who paid Priests, Deacons, Choristers and all,
With pockets full of England's gold to fee him,
And purchase lamps for Peter and for Paul*.
At home he found affairs had changed their faces;
His first son dead, and ETHELBALD, the next,
Usurper of his Sire's and Brother's places,
The former's weakness furnishing pretext.

Scarce do the Son and Sire the land divide,
When the King feed the Monks once more, and died:
To future reigns the people turn their hope,
And ETHELWOLF's regretted—by the Pope.

* One of the pious pretences under which the papal see obtained money from bigotted princes was that of selling sacred lamps to burn before figures of the apostles.

SUMMARY OF THE REIGNS OF

ETHELBALD AND ETHELBERT.

Began to reign conjunctly, A. D. 857. Ethelbald married his mother-in-law, Queen Judith. Died 859. Ethelbert died 866. Neither had issue; and both were buried at Sherborne, in Dorsetshire, from whence Ethelbald was afterwards removed to Salisbury.

Principal Events.

Continued scenes of trouble with the Danes.

Eminent Persons.

Swithun, bishop of Winchester. Osryck, earl of Hampton. Lambert and Ethelhard, archbishops of Canterbury.

Cotemporary Sovereigns.

Popes.

Benedict III. A. D. 855. Nicholas I. 858.

Emperor of the East.

Michael III. 842.

Emperor of the West and King of France.

Lewis II. 855.

Kings of Scotland.

Kennethus II. 839. Donaldus V. 859.
Constantinus II. 865.

ETHELBALD AND ETHELBERT.

"This crown I part between you." SHAKESPEARE.

ETHELWULPH's grants to the Clergy were such,
Let this lesson œconomy teach,
From the State to the Church he had given so much,
His Sons got but HALF a CROWN each.
But, then he'd two *younger* lads, critics may cry,
Perhaps so, we'll talk about them by and bye.

Prince ETHELBERT proved himself worthy his birth,
I can't say as much for his Brother,
Who being the veriest monster on earth,
Was actually wed to his Mother—
In law,—Lady Judith,—not she who so called
Destroy'd Holofernes the big,
But daughter to Emperor Charley, the bald,
So named from the want of a wig.
We can't say that ETHELBALD's reign was long lived,
Or happy the period his brother survived;
He was teazed by the Danes, who in England wou'd sway,
But died 'ere he'd give the marauders their way.

SUMMARY

SUMMARY OF THE REIGN OF

ETHERED.

Began to reign, A. D. 866. Had issue, Alfred, Oswald, and a daughter, named Thyre. Received a mortal wound in battle at Basing, and died at Wittington, 872. Buried at Wimborne, in Dorsetshire.

Principal Events.

Danish hostilities; and a great plague in England.

Eminent Persons.

Osbricht and Œlla, Northumbrian Princes, who were killed while bravely opposing the Danes.

Cotemporary Sovereigns.

Pope.

Nicholas I. A. D. 858.

Emperors of the East.

Michael III. 842. Basilius I. 867.

Emperor of the West and King of France.

Lewis II. 855.

King of Scotland.

Constantinus II. 855.

ETHERED, OR ETHELRED.

"Dulce & decorum, est pro patria mori."
HORACE.

WOU'D that past records happier tales could tell
Of ETHERED than truth has handed down!
Few years he reign'd, by ALFRED's side he fell,
Defending England's honor and his crown.
A taint of Superstition dimm'd, alas!
A mind by nature meant to shine more bright;
Tho' brave, he fear'd to leave unfinish'd mass,
Till Danes near won the day at Aston fight.
This folly almost cost a brother's life;
But ALFRED's arm upheld the doubtful strife.*
So in our days Iberia's chief, they say,
Lost Spain, and Britain join'd, a glorious day!
And let the Gallic VICTOR run away.†

* The following inscription was placed over King Ethered's tomb: "In hoc loco quiescet corpus Sancti Ethelredi, Regis West "Saxonum Martyris, qui A. D. 872, 23 die Aprilis, per manum "ducorum paganorum occubuit."

† *Vide* Dispatches from Spain in the London Gazette, when Marshal Victor was permitted to escape from a most disadvantageous position, through the Spanish General's horror of fighting on a holy day.

SUMMARY

SUMMARY OF THE REIGN OF

ALFRED THE GREAT.

Born at Wantage, A. D. 850. Crowned at Winchester, 872. Married Ethelswitha, daughter of a Mercian Earl. Had issue—Edmund, who died, childless, in his father's lifetime; Edward, surnamed the Elder; Ethelward, who lived a private life, and inherited his father's literary taste. Alfred had also three daughters. He died at Oxford, 25th October, 900, and was buried at Winchester.

Principal Events.

Fifty-six battles fought with the Danes, who were completely defeated, and many of them incorporated with the English. Ships first built in England, 886. University of Oxford founded. The kingdom divided into counties; and a great plague in England, 887.

Eminent Persons.

Oddune, earl of Devon, who killed Hubba, the Dane, and took the famous Reafen, or enchanted Standard. Ulfredus, Trelolegaldus, Celnoth, Ethelred, and Plerumdus, were archbishops of Canterbury.

Cotemporary Sovereigns.

Popes.

John VIII. 872. Martin II. 882. Adrian III. 884.
Stephen VI. 885. Formosus, 891.

Emperors of the East.

Basilius I. 867. Leo VI. 886.

Emperors of the West and Kings of France.

Lewis II. 855. Charles I. 873. Charles II. 880.
Arnold, 888. Lewis III. 899.

Kings of Scotland.

Constantine II. 863. Ethus, 878. Gregory, 880.
Donaldus VI. 898.

SUMMARY

ALFRED THE GREAT.

" He was a man, (then boldly dare to say,)
" In whose rich soule the vertues well did sute,
" In whom so mix'd the elements all lay,
" That none to one cou'd sou'raigntre impute,
" As all did governe, yet all did obey;
" He of a temper was so absolute
" As that it seem'd when nature him began
" She meant to shew all that might be in man."

DRAYTON.

" A little island boasts his glorious birth,
" His fame for wisdom fills the spacious earth."

POPE.

WHEN GUTHRUM'S * momentary might
Had taken place of ALFRED'S right
His fainting friends, dispersing, fled,
While he a life erratic led,
Folding the herdsman's flock for bread.
Condemn'd that bread himself to bake,
And when (his royal thoughts astray,
On projects soon to see the day,)

* Guthrum was King of the Danes.

His

His mind to nobler tasks awake,
He tended ill the household cake;
A woman's tongue, a woman's blows,
Add to the humbled Monarch's woes.

More watchful for his suff'ring state,
Alive to every turn of fate,
ALFRED assumes a temporary throne;
Where stagnate thick the PARRET and the THONE.
(In Athelney two acres in extent)
Scarce hold the British Sov'reign's tent;
Yet here, encircled by a daring few,
The hero's future greatness grew.
From hence, in oft successful sally,
Issue the unexpected warrior band,
And chase o'er forest, mount, and valley,
The Danish spoilers of our native land.
And ODDUNE, Devon's chief, by Kinwith's towers,
Slew HUBBA, and destroy'd his pirate powers.

The great, good, ruler of the little isle,
Who justly balanced fortune's ev'ry smile,

Beholds

Beholds his projects ripening, and goes,
In harper's guise, among his num'rous foes.
The minstrel's air, and gait, so well he feigns,
The royal tent admits him; he obtains
Knowledge of martial efforts to be made,
And by whose influence each attempt is sway'd:
For of intents and means the chiefs spoke loud,
Nor heeded ALFRED in the mingled crowd;
For potent mead, from oft replenish'd shell,
Urg'd the gay tongue each inmost thought to tell,
While well the harper play'd; and listen'd well.
Right skilful was his finger, and right dear
The Danes soon learn'd how accurate his ear.

"When music, heavenly maid! was young,
"When yet in early Greece she sung,"
Tho' vast her powers and sweet her tongue,
They both had fail'd to celebrate his name,
Who, while he struck the antient British lyre,
With all the purity of patriot flame,
That cou'd a parent Monarch's breast inspire,
A *meaning* drew from ev'ry tone,
To Danes, outwitted, little known;

Who

Who wanted souls to tell them each proud
string
Responded to the feelings of a King.

Let not the nicely scrupulous exclaim,
" The subtle spy obscures the soldier's fame !"
By art, as well as arms, his foes succeed,
Through foreign art his native subjects bleed.
And, when to bring the Dane to open strife,
For England's welfare, ALFRED risks his life,
The noble issue, and the glorious end,
To which his perilous adventures tend,
Made, in a cause for which he wou'd have died,
The *means* he used his glory and his pride.

Those means with most deserv'd success were
bless'd ;
GUTHRUM, in turn, discomfited, distrest,
At EDDINGTON beholds his army beat,
And sues for mercy at the MINSTREL's feet.
Hunted, pursued, by youths whose earlier age
Had seen their parents fall by Danish rage,
The Danes, now suppliant for British grace,
Renounce their Pagan gods, and heathen race ;
And

And humbly seek permission to reside
In peace with those whom lately they defied.

" Ye who have view'd, in pleasure's choicest hour,
" The earth embellished on the banks of STOUR;
" Where, with pure love of smiling nature warm'd,
" A second Paradise the founder form'd *."

You've seen (not far from where embower'd round,
The river's source first glides with trilling sound)
On terraced lawn majestically high,
Great ALFRED'S TOW'R, arrest the wond'ring eye;
Inscribed by truth, a modern race to shew
What solid blessings to his reign we owe.
His first-built NAVY taught us how to sweep,
With flag triumphant, the subservient deep;
His ENGLISH JURY, form'd in happiest hour,
Still guards the innocent from lawless pow'r;
His battles were, as our traditions fix,
(Successful most) in number fifty-six.

* Hayley's epitaph on Henry Hoare, Esq. in Stourton church, Wilts.

Yet let not here our admiration cease,
Tho' fam'd in war, he lov'd and cherish'd peace.
His aim in battle sought no other plan
But to convince, then bless, his fellow man!
Thy venerable turrets, OXFORD, rose,
From him, who, unsubdued by fiercest foes,
Was great alike in danger and repose.
Philosophy and Christian worth combined
Their vast effects in one capacious mind.
Replete with SOUL, the Monarch stood alone,
And built, on freedom's basis, England's throne.
A legislator,* parent,† warrior, sage,
He died "THE LIGHT OF A BENIGHTED AGE."
BEDE and OROSIUS, historians grave,
A Saxon dress the studious Sov'reign gave;

* A very singular circumstance occurs in those laws which the great Alfred formed for the regulation of the English Church. The introduction produces a copy of the Ten Commandments, in which the second has only these words, "Make not thou gods of gold and silver." This alteration was certainly made to favor the literal adoration of paintings and images.

ANDREWS, from SPELMAN.

† So little was learning attended to by the great, that Asser, the biographer of Alfred, mentions with amazement, the King having taught his youngest son, Ethelward, to read before he made him acquainted with hunting.

ELFREDI.

BOETHIUS

Boethius too, our tongue he taught to speak,
And Æsop's morals, from their native Greek.*
Of thirty years in which the land he sway'd,
Not one elaps'd but some good laws he made;
And proved, as grateful pens record,
There never yet was Britain's lord
Who better knew to rule, or better was obey'd.

* He also rendered the Holy Gospels into the Saxon tongue, in which the Lord's Prayer, (which is inserted here as a specimen of the language of Alfred's day,) stands as follows;

Fæder ure thu the earth on heafenum, si thin nama gehalgod, to be cume thin rice, Gewurthe thin willa on eorthan swa swa on heafenum, urne ge dægwanlican hlaf syle us to dæg; and for gyf us ure gyltas, swa swa we forgivath urum gyltendum, and ne gelædde thu us on cosenung ac alyse us of yfle. (Si it swa.)

Medulla Historiæ Anglicanæ.

SUMMARY OF THE REIGN OF

EDWARD SURNAMED THE ELDER.

Born, A. D. 872. Crowned at Kingston-on-Thames, 900-1 Married thrice to English Ladies, first to Edgwina,* by whom he had Athelstan, who succeeded him; Ælfred, who died during his father's reign; and Editha, a nun. By Elfleda, or Alfreda, his second Queen, he had Eswald, Edwin, and six daughters. By his third wife, Edgiva, he had Edmund, Edred, and a daughter named Edgina. He reigned 24 years, and was buried at Winchester, 925.

Principal Events.

Scotland sued to Edward for peace. Wales revolted, and was obliged to return to allegiance. Ethelward, son of Ethelbert, repulsed, in attempting to obtain the crown. Thurktill, the Dane, subdued.

Eminent Persons.

Ethelflida, sister of Edward, a great warrior, and very instrumental in assisting to gain her brother's victories. Atholme, Archbishop of Canterbury.

Cotemporary Sovereigns.

Popes.

Benedict IV. 900. Leo V. 904. Sergius III. 905. Anastatius III 910. Lado, 912. John X. 913.

Emperors.

Of the East.—Leo VI. 886. Constantine Porphyrogenitus, 910.

Of the West.—Lewis III. 899. Conrade I. 912. Henry I. 919.

Kings.

Of France.—Charles III. 898. Robert I. 922. Raoul I. 923.

Of Scotland.—Donald VI. 898. Constantine III. 909.

* Some historians deny his being legally united to this lady.

EDWARD THE ELDER.

" For I shall sing of battles, blood, and rage,
" Which princes and their people did engage;
" And haughty souls, that moved with mutual hate,
" In fighting fields, pursued and found their fate."
DRYDEN'S VIRGIL.

THO' less renown'd for what the learn'd acquire,
EDWARD in arms was worthy of his sire;
And happy for the realm, great ALFRED's son,
Maintain'd with honor, what his father won;
In spite of insurrection, rapine, guilt,
And blood that flow'd for blood unjustly spilt,
First ETHELWALD, from ETHELBERT derived,
(Tho' two of royal ALFRED's sons survived,)
Claim'd England's sceptre, and in frequent fight,
Warr'd against Justice and his Cousin's right;
A Norman and Northumbrian miscreant crew,
With Danes and Mercians to his side he drew,
And led his pupils in rebellion's school
That land to ravage which he might not rule.

EDWARD,

Edward, with royal indignation fired,
Obeyed the impulse which his rage inspired,
And peaceful hamlets, towns, and cities mourn
The Monarch's and the Rebel's force in turn;
For civil discord glories in the ills
With which she indiscriminately fills
The royal mansion, or the rebel's hold,
The patriot cot, or den of ruffian bold,
While blood on both sides eagerly she spills.
The Kentish men, long England's warlike boast,
Assail'd at Bury, by the traitor's host,
With Danes maintain'd a most unequal fray,
'Till Ethelwald, his treasons to repay,
Lost, with his life, the honor of the day.
Northumbria, Mercia, and the scatter'd Dane,
Hostile by turns, and unsubdued, remain.
A powerful fleet, the Monarch bids prepare,
He sails, and quickly the rapacious band
Haste to despoil the absent Edward's land;
The King, as briefly of their plans aware,
Returns, with slaughter Stafford's plains to dye,
And see again his flag victorious fly.

Yet,

Yet, by misfortune unsubdued,
The restless chiefs again unite,
Again their blood the earth imbrued,
At Tunsford, and in Maldon fight.

THURKTILL the Dane, invincible esteem'd,
Not so, perdie, by EDWARD deem'd,
Vanquish'd, retreats before the conqu'ror's lance,
To pillage other lands in France;
At length, by perseverance, toil, and pains,
EDWARD, in well earn'd peace, with glory reigns.*

LADIES, if thus far Somnus lets ye look
In this my nice narcotic book,
It may awake your sex's proper pride,
To recollect that, in each doubtful day,
EDWARD had oft a sister by his side,
Whose genius pointed to success the way;
Active, yet prudent, masculine, yet fair,
The widow'd ETHELFLIDA,† good and great

* He was fortunate not only in military enterprize, but in domestic concerns; he matched four of his nine daughters to the greatest Princes in Europe; and three of his five sons successively mounted their father's throne, Athelstan, Edmund, and Edred.

† This patriotic amazon was the wife of Ethered, Duke of Mercia; she is universally said by historians to have been the exact resemblance of her parent Alfred in every quality of the mind, and in many old writings she is actually styled, not Domina, but Rex. J. P. ANDREWS.

Ruled

Ruled Mercia's province with propitious care,
And proved the grand *appui* of EDWARD'S state.
Let it not from the Monarch derogate,
That he by female wit was sway'd,
Women, when good, are angels, and I wot,
(He who denies it is a senseless sot,)
Good angels may with safety be obeyed.

EDWARD surviv'd, to grace his sister's urn
With a fraternal tear; nor did he mourn
Her absence long, but sought that awful bourn,
From whence, nor slave nor monarch may return.

SUMMARY OF THE REIGN OF

ATHELSTAN.

Born A. D. 895. Crowned 925. Died, without issue, October 28th, 941.

Principal Events.

Hoel, Prince of Wales, rendered tributary. Constantine III. of Scotland, with six Irish and Welsh Princes, killed at the battle of Brunanburgh. Athelstan restored those, who submitted, to their respective governments, observing, "It was more honourable to make a King than to be a King."

Eminent Persons.

Guy, Earl of Warwick, is supposed to have lived in this reign, and to have conquered Colbrand, a gigantic Dane, and performed many extraordinary actions. Abbot Œlfrichi, a priest of great learning. Terketyl, cousin to the King, was a successful warrior, an abbot of Croyland, and chancellor of England. Wolstane, archbishop of Canterbury.

Cotemporary Sovereigns.

Popes.

John X. 913. Leo VI. 928. Stephen VIII. 929. John XI. 931. Leo VII. 936. Stephen IX. 939.

Emperors.

Of the East—Constantine Porphyrogenitus, 912.
Of the West—Henry I. 919. Otho I. 936.

Kings.

Of France—Raoul I. 923. Lewis IV. 936.
Of Scotland—Constantine III. 909.

ATHELSTAN.

"Thou nature art my goddess!"

SHAKESPEARE.

"Ay, my mother,
"With all my heart, I thank thee for my father."

SHAKESPEARE.

ATHELSTAN's birthright (if they say not well,
Blame older tales,) was doubtful —From his brother,
However born, ATHELSTAN bore the belle,
I. E. the throne
He made his own,
And tho' the chances are, he *had* a mother,
Her name, not knowing, we forbear to tell:
Where heirs claim interest doubts like these grow double,
And hence the King experienced no small trouble.

One ALFRED first conspired, but being seized,
And losing every gleam of hope,
Declared, if so his Liege would be appeas'd,
He'd swear his innocence before the Pope.

The

The Pope was then a wight of some renown,
" Viceroy o'er Monarchs"* he no equal knew,
And, *sans façon*, wou'd crack the iron crown
Of any Emperor that look'd askew.

Well, ALFRED went, and tho' you may despise
My tale, 'tis what my betters 'erst have wrote,
The oath he took, of most tremendous size,
Stuck in his throat.

To bear with patience is my muse's pride,
Not e'en by incredulity provoked,
She asks you'll but believe Lord ALFRED died
As soon as he was choked.

ANLAFF, the Dane, against the King essay'd,
In minstrel garb, to count his loyal bands;
And failing, proved, however well he play'd,
The part was better when in ALFRED'S hands †.

* Shakespeare.

† The pride of Anlaff betrayed him; while he explored the hostile camp as a minstrel, a soldier observing him throw away the reward he had received for his performance, watched him and recognized the Northumbrian leader.

Discover'd,

Discover'd, and compell'd to open fight,
His stratagems and projects end in flight
At *Brunsbury*, where, man to man,
The CHANCELLOR OF ENGLAND led the van.

And much it grieves the muse to tell,
Among the slain a BISHOP fell;
Thus Lawn and Woolsack both upheld the crown,
Not only in the senate, bar, and church,
But 'ere they'd leave the Sov'reign in the lurch,
E'en Bishops from beneath their beavers frown;
While law's great leader, in the place
Of painted, gilded, WOODEN mace,
With mace of iron knocks invaders down.

And thus in latter days I ween,
England's Lord Chancellor I've seen,
(With dignity and grace no less,
Than when in pride of legal dress.*)
In *Bloomsbury*, at daily drill,
Grasp not the ancient weapon 'clep'd Brown BILL,
But a more modern mischief, call'd Brown BESS.

* Lord Erskine was a subaltern, or private, in the Bloomsbury Volunteers, and Lord Thurlow was a corporal in the same corps.

GUY,

GUY, Earl of Warwick, now was famed
COLBRAND, the Danish Chief, he slew,
And other deeds he did are named,
And many more he did not do.

To foster our commercial school,
ATHELSTAN made a useful rule;
Three voyages for merchants should acquire
The rank and place of gentleman, or squire;
Had all the squires we daily see
So earn'd the right of their assumed degree,
Lord! what a travell'd nation we shou'd be!

At Glocester, after sixteen well spent years,
ATHELSTAN's exit caus'd some genuine tears,
And it bespeaks their mutual worth,
That EDMUND of more certain birth,
Against the King his name wou'd never lend,
But, like a brother, liv'd his brother's friend,
And mourn'd with others his lamented end.

SUMMARY OF THE REIGN OF

EDMUND, SURNAMED THE PIOUS.

Born, A. D. 923. Crowned at Kingston-on-Thames, 941. Married Elgiva, or Elgina, an English lady, by whom he had Edwy, and Edgar, who both (after the reign of Edred) succeeded him. Edmund reigned about six years.

PRINCIPAL EVENTS.

The Northumbrians defeated in a rebellious enterprize. Cumberland and Westmoreland given to the Scots, who were to pay homage for them. The King assassinated at Pucklekirk, in Gloucestershire, on Tuesday, May 26th, 946, by Leolf, a robber. Buried at Glastonbury.

COTEMPORARY SOVEREIGNS.

Popes.

Stephen IX. 939. Martin III. 943.

Emperors.

Of the East—Constantine Porphyrogenitus, 912.
Of the West—Otho I. 936.

Kings.

Of France—Lewis IV. 936.
Of Scotland—Constantine III. 909.

EDMUND.

"Was by a mousing owl hawk'd at and kill'd."

SHAKESPEARE.

EDMUND his eighteenth year had not yet known,
When he succeeded to Athelstan's throne,
And, *ecce iterum!* the Monarch found
The DANES encroaching still on English ground;
MALCOLM of Scotland having lent him aid,
With Westmoreland and Cumberland he paid;
And when kind peace was dawning o'er the land,
Or e'er six summers smiled upon his reign,
By LEOLF, leader of a lawless band,
The youthful Sov'reign was untimely slain.*

* The King espied this outlaw presumptuously seated at a royal banquet and, being inflamed with wine, seized him by the hair, when the felon, instigated by despair, plunged his dagger in the body of the King: the intoxication of the nobles and attendants permitted the assassin's escape.

SUMMARY OF THE REIGN OF

EDRED.

Crowned A. D. 946. Had issue, Elfrid and Berfrid, neither of whom succeeded. Died 955. Buried at Winchester.

Principal Events.

An Insurrection of the Danes quieted in Northumberland. The King submits to corporal discipline from the church, and founds several abbeys.

Eminent Persons.

Dunstan, Abbot of Glastonbury; Otho, Archbishop of Canterbury.

Cotemporary Sovereigns.

Pope.

Agapetus.

Emperors.

Of the East—Constantine Porphyrogenitus, 912.
Of the West—Otho I. 936.

Kings.

Of France—Lewis IV. 936.
Of Scotland—Malcolm I. 943.

EDRED.

" Priest-ridden by a man
" Of an unbounded stomach, ever ranking
" Himself with Princes."

SHAKESPEARE.

" They who possess the Prince, possess the laws. '

DRYDEN.

THE name of EDRED we record in vain,
For this was properly Saint DUNSTAN's* reign.
Specious, yet haughty, full of smiling evil,
And more than match, he boasted, for the Devil.
" In friendship false, implacable in hate,
" Resolv'd to ruin or to rule the state."†
The King, whose sword subdu'd a rebel crowd,
Before the supercilious Churchman bow'd!
The Monk, entrusted with supreme command,
Ruled England's Monarch with an iron hand,
Pow'rless the sceptre, yielding EDRED sway'd.
Not his but DUNSTAN's wishes were obeyed;
'Till Death, who spares nor prince nor peasant swain,
Releas'd the master from his servant's chain.

* The Monks in England married and supported their families with decency until the reign of Edred, when Dunstan introduced celibacy, and tore their wives and children from the Priests, styling them harlots and bastards. SCRIPT. ANGL. PASSIM.

† Dryden.

SUMMARY OF THE REIGN OF

EDWY.

Crowned, A. D. 955. Married Elgiva, an English lady, who was persecuted and eventually murdered by Dunstan and his partisans. Died 959. Buried at Winchester.

Principal Events.

The King's brother, Edgar, revolts against his sovereign, and is supported by the Mercians. The Monks influence the people against the King.

Eminent Persons.

Dunstan. Odo, archbishop of Canterbury.

Cotemporary Sovereigns.

Pope.

John XII. A. D. 956.

Emperors.

Of the East—Constantine Porphyrogenitus, 912.
Of the West—Otho I. 936.

Kings.

Of France—Lothaire I. 951.
Of Scotland—Malcolm I. 949. Indulphus, 958.

EDWY.

" Yet all was colour'd with a smooth pretence
" Of specious love, and duty to their Prince,
" Religion, and redress of grievances,
" Two names that always cheat, and always please."

" The next successor whom I fear and hate,
" My arts have made obnoxious to the state;
" Turn'd all his virtues to his overthrow,
" And gained our elders to pronounce a foe."

DRYDEN

So DUNSTAN thought, and so he wou'd have said,
But DRYDEN wrote not 'till the Monk was dead.
EDWY who knew his predecessor's mind,
(Warp'd by the Priest, infatuated! blind!)
To insignificance had sunk the Throne,
Boldly resolv'd at first to " hold his own,"
But EDWY was, alas! too young by far,
With such a wolf, and fox combined, to war,
Fell DUNSTAN's wiles revengeful, made him feel
Where vulnerable most: what breast of steel,
What fiend, embodied in a mortal mould,
Cou'd have perform'd what—scarce can it be told—

Elgiva, fair, the youthful Monarch's wife,
Lovely in form, and dear to him as life,
A virtuous, blooming, young and new-made bride,
Torn from her husband, and her mother's side;
By ruffians, whom no human ties cou'd bind,
Tortur'd; her frame to ling'ring death consign'd;
Her sex insulted, and her charms defaced,
By wretches who the forms of men disgraced!*

The people too, deluded by the priest,
And Odo,† less a bishop than a beast,
Rebel against the crown; Rome too conspires,
And launches all St. Peter's fiercest fires.
With mournful indignation next I sing,
The hapless, widow'd, persecuted King!
His earthly crown he quits, on Heav'n relies,
Invokes the spirit of his wife—and dies.

* Many of the earliest Missionaries were hostile to, and dreaded the company of, the fair sex. The unpolished St. Columba prohibited his catechumens the comforts of milch kine, because, "Where there is a cow," said the brute, "there must be a woman, and where there is a woman there must be mischief."

Vide Pennant.

† Odo, successively promoted, through Dunstan's influence, to the sees of Worcester, London, and Canterbury, is handed down to posterity by the Monks, as a man of piety.

Hume.

SUMMARY OF THE REIGN OF

EDGAR, SURNAMED THE PEACEABLE.

Born, A. D. 943. Crowned at Kingston-on-Thames, 959. Married two English ladies; the first a Nun, called Editha, Ethelflida, or Wolfchild, by whom he had, Edward the Martyr; the second, Elfrida, Daughter of a Duke of Devonshire, by whom he had, Edmund, (who died young,) and Ethelred.

PRINCIPAL EVENTS.

The King imposed an annual tribute of 300 wolves' heads on the Welsh. Favored the Monks, reformed the secular Clergy, and paid homage to the Pope. The navy of England improved.

EMINENT PERSONS.

Dunstan and Elsius, Archbishops of Canterbury.

COTEMPORARY SOVEREIGNS.

Popes.

John XII. 956. Benedict V. 964. John XIII. 965. Benedict VI. 972. Domus II. 972.

Emperors.

Of the West—Otho II. 973.

Of the East—Romanus, the Younger, 959. Nicephorus, 963. Zemisces, 970.

Kings.

Of France—Lothaire, 954.

Of Scotland—Indulphus, 958. Duffus, 967. Culenus, 972.

EDGAR

EDGAR THE PEACEABLE.

"Pleas'd let me trifle life away,
"And sing of love."

HAMMOND'S TIBULLUS.

"None but the brave deserve the fair."

DRYDEN.

"Equal to both, and arm'd for either field."

ROWE.

EDGAR encreas'd our navy—he was right,
Tho', *toujours prêt*, he'd little cause to fight.
Next, he obliged the Prince of Wales
To pay three hundred wolves a year;
Which, with three amatory tales,
Is all that of his Majesty we hear.
Whether these tales are worthy of perusal,
Or, whether their contents are false or true,
They wait acceptance or refusal,
As may, my readers kind, seem good to you.

LOVE TALE THE FIRST.

WILFRIDA* was the fairest of the fair;
So thought the King, for lovers think on stilts;
Which made her parents, with most proper care,
Immure her in a Nunnery of WILTS.
(Whether 'twas Amesbury, where ancient Q
Imported Nuns from France, I never knew.)

King EDGAR, living in such days as those,
When DUNSTAN took the DEVIL by the nose,†
Was doubtful in what manner to proceed.
Now DUNSTAN and the DEVIL were not foes
(But in appearance) for, *tout autre chose,*
They help'd each other in the time of need.

To DUNSTAN quoth Old NICK, "My plans
'twill aid,
"If EDGAR from yon abbey force the maid,

* Hume calls this lady EDITA; she is, by another author named WOLFCHILD.

† The Monks whom Dunstan and Edgar put in possession of Convents, were so nearly perfect, that they knew nothing of religion but continence and obedience.
INGULPHUS.

"Then,

" Then, prithee, brother Dunny, don't impede
him."

Quoth DUNSTAN to OLD NICK, " 'Tis my design
" To let him take her, then a glorious fine,
" *I'll* levy first, and next the *Pope* shall
bleed him."

In short, the Monarch took the Nun away,
There was, in consequence, I scarce need say,
The Devil and the Friar both to pay.

LOVE TALE THE SECOND.

AT ANDOVER with great applause
A pair dwelt, *sans* rebuke;
The wife a Duchess was, because
The husband was a Duke!

A lovely daughter eke had they,
Well-favored, fair, and mild,
They had no other, for folks say,
She was an only child.

King

King EDGAR lov'd, King EDGAR woo'd,
You'll all allow, I ween,
'Twas *grossierté*, 'twas wrong, 'twas rude!
For EDGAR had a Queen.

In vain he offered heaps of gold,
In vain to work he went,
More ways than we have yet been told,
To win the maid's consent;

When words, and sighs, and tears had fail'd,
He feign'd him deadly sick,
The Lady, since nought else prevail'd,
Then play'd a King a trick.

All in the dark she made believe,
She'd grace the Monarch's bed,
Then sent, nor did the Prince perceive,
Another in her stead.

At Highgate, I am much afraid.
They ne'er had sworn his Grace,
Else had he never let the Maid,
Assume her Lady's place.

Such

Such shocking things
Prove, modern Kings
Are better than of yore;
Which probably,
Is reason why,
Some folks abuse them more.

LOVE TALE THE THIRD.

Yet how dare I attempt to tell a story,
Which Mason has related *con amore?*
No matter, whether good or bad, my song,
I'll promise this, shall not be very long.

Elfrida with her father liv'd retired,
Few eyes beheld her, yet, who saw, admired;
And fame, of beauty ever prone to sing,
Proclaim'd her modest merits to the King;
Who, 'ere he credence gave, resolv'd to send,
The truth to ascertain, a fancied friend.
Who read my simple legend, ah, beware!
Those are not always friends who say they are.

When

When ATHELWOLD beheld the beauteous maid
Too soon his trust from EDGAR was betray'd;
With false report his master's ear abus'd,
He weds the fair the cheated King refus'd;
Triumph'd awhile in baseness and deceit,
Nor fear'd the vengeance he was doom'd to meet.
My legend who peruse, on this depend,
Dishonest dealing ne'er meets happy end.

The King by other favorites made wise,
For favorites on fav'rites still are spies,
Views his friend's treason in ELFRIDA's charms,
Who flies from ATHELWOLD to EDGAR's arms:
The faulty Earl is slain, and on the spot,
Another abbey falls to DUNSTAN's lot.—*

So much for love!—the gallant King expires,
And, scarcely he reposes with his sires,
'Ere fell ELFRIDA (like the Scottish Dame,
Who fann'd Macbeth's ambitions flame,)
Her sex forgot, her soul's repose disdain'd,
With blood of deepest dye the empire stain'd.

* The usual mode of compensation was resorted to, and a pile was raised in honour of a saint, to expiate the crime of murdering a sinner.

By

By way of Postcript, suffer me to add,
The King his Magistrates with care inspected,
The just rewarded; woe betide the bad!
Whom neither rank, nor friends, nor place, protected.

He taught the Clergy to reform their lives,
Clergy who deem'd it wicked to have wives;
And therefore openly "withouten shame,"
Were kind to Ladies with another name.

EDGAR, and it was noble in the Prince,
Made yearly circuits to discover
Where pardon might reform and more convince
Than punishment. Of PEACE an ardent lover.
Where more congenially cou'd MERCY rest,
Than thus companion'd in a Monarch's breast?

END OF PART THE SECOND.

ENGLAND.

PART THE THIRD.

From Edward the Martyr to the Norman Conquest.

CONTENTS.

Edward the Martyr—Ethelred the Unready—Edmund Ironside. Danish Sovereigns: Canute the Great—Harold Harefoot—Hardicanute—Edward the Confessor—Harold—Landing of William of Normandy—Conquest of England.

SUMMARY

SUMMARY OF THE REIGN OF

EDWARD THE MARTYR.

Crowned, A. D. 975. Reigned near four years. Died, (unmarried,) by the hands of a ruffian, employed by Elfrida, his mother-in-law, at Corfe Castle, in the isle of Purbeck, 978. Buried at Warham, afterwards removed to Shaftsbury.

Principal Events.

Commotions raised by the Clergy respecting the marriages of Priests. A Plague, and great mortality of cattle. In an assembly of the Peers and Commons the floor gave way, many were killed; Dunstan escaped unhurt, it was supposed by miracle.

Eminent Persons.

The Earl, or Duke of Mercia, who took part with Elfrida and the Clergy, against the King. Dunstan, Ethelgar, and Elfrick, Archbishops of Canterbury.

Cotemporary Sovereigns.

Pope.

Benedict VII. 975.

Emperors.

Of the East—Basilius II. 975.
Of the West—Otho II. 973.

Kings.

Of France—Lothaire, 954.
Of Scotland—Culenus, 972. Kenneth III. 277.

EDWARD THE MARTYR.

"Cut off even in the blossom of my sin,
"Unhousell'd, unannointed, unanneal'd,
"No reck'ning made, but sent to my account,
"With all my imperfections on my head."

"I have given suck, and know
"How tender 'tis to love the babe that milks me;
"I wou'd, while it was smiling in my face,
"Have pluck'd my nipple from his boneless gums,
"And dash'd the brains out."

SHAKESPEARE.

FROM RADCLIFFE'S ivy mantled towers,
Where "foul deeds rise" in midnight gloom,
To haunt guilt's wakeful, ling'ring hours,
And warn the murd'rer of his doom;

LEWIS! from where thy spectres glide,
And sable plumed assassins wait,
Where malice, deck'd in monkish pride,
Allures some victim to her fate;

From, FUSELI! thy touch of fire,
Enthusiastic, madly bold—
Much aid my muse may well require,
For fell a tale as e'er was told.

ELFRIDA!

ELFRIDA! had wild fiction's page
Thy fiend-like outline dar'd to shew,
This all enlighten'd critic age
Had damn'd the lines that drew thee so!

Reader! howe'er the hardy task
My feeble pen may ill beseem,
Your patience I shall boldly ask,
While I attempt, to tell a DREAM.

WHERE mould'ring CORFE'S antique remains
Attract the passing trav'ler's eye,
Recal the scene of former reigns,
And tell of ages long gone by;

With toil and thought my nerves unstrung,
I woo'd repose; old Somnus smiled,
The gale through moss clad fragments sung,
And fancy thus my sense beguil'd:

Methought the blast grew loud, and long, and keen,
The barren heath grew dark, and wide, and drear,
For shelter scarce a trembling leaf was seen,
And direst noises mock'd th' uncertain ear!

And

And now it seem'd as if the yell
Of Evil Spirits, high in air,
Mix'd with the winds, now, like the knell
From some deep toned sepulchral bell,
Or, as the ling'ring groan of sad despair,
Upon the terror stricken heart it fell,
Yet, what these sounds might bode no living man could tell.

Ne'er did such fearful torrents leave the sky,
Ne'er from such angry clouds did torrents pour,
Ne'er did such light'ning paralize the eye,
Nor ever thunder burst with such indignant roar.

An hour so dread, a desert place so wild,
Might well the stoutest, firmest, heart subdue,
Convert the soul of manhood to a child,
And with big drops the forehead pale bedew.

Amid the countless wonders of the night,
While sulph'rous flashes breaking o'er the scene
Made "darkness visible," my startled sight
Beheld a female of majestic mien.

Dark were her tresses which a blood-stained veil
Confined, a diadem her temple bound,
'Twas more than terrible to hear her wail,
Cold ran my heart's-blood at the mournful sound!

"Guilty ELFRIDA!" was her ceaseless cry,
The breast she beat gave back a hollow groan;
"Guilty ELFRIDA!" echo made reply,
And nature shook with horrors not her own.

Of martyr'd EDWARD's step-dame 'twas the shade,
(So fancy whisper'd to my fear-struck mind)
Who, nightly thus compell'd, confession made,
Yet from confession no relief might find.

"Ambition!" shriek'd the form, "thou hateful name,
"Thou worst of evils, cause of all my woe,
"Not less corrosive thy detested flame
"Than fires that scorch my guilty heart below!

"Sage Peers, of my aspiring hopes aware,
"Opposed me to protect my hapless son,
"That son who should have been a mother's care,
"Became her hate, and we were both undone.
"DUNSTAN,

" Dunstan,* that sainted hypocrite, conspir'd
" My royal name in disrepute to bring;
" 'Twas thirst of pow'r the daring Churchman fir'd,
" I wish'd to rule a State, he ruled a King.

" Four years my death-devoted step-son reign'd,
" Beloved by most, but least beloved by me,
" His virtue my too vicious aims restrain'd,
" Who from restraint determined to be free.

" Foremost of Cavaliers so gay
" Who drove with " hound and horn" the game,
" His train outstript, he came to pay
" His duty to a parent's name.

" Oh, then! what tortures equal mine
" A heart to shew depraved as this!
" Judas! my guilt is next to thine,
" Betraying heaven with a kiss.

" Youth, health, and exercise combined
" With manly beauty deck'd his brow,
" And locks in glossy ringlets twined
" Might charm a vestal from her vow.

* Dunstan sided with (not from loyalty, but because he governed) the King, and opposed the unnatural and ambitious views of Elfrida, whose party was strong and headed by the Earl of Mercia.

" Yet could not these my heart disarm,
" Yet cou'd not these my bosom sway,
" I nerved the shrinking ruffian's arm
" His monarch and my son to slay.

" Should Infidels to direst foe
" Once 'ope the hospitable door
" The cup a pledge of faith they know,
" They drink, and then are foes no more.

" But I who stain'd a *Christian* name,
" In the deceitful cup I gave,
" Forgot my son, my sov'reign's claim,
" And plung'd him in an early grave,

" Yet on that day the sun shone bright,
" (That day of most atrocious guilt !)
" Which shou'd have been eclips'd in night,
" Or redden'd like the blood I spilt.

" The sparkling bev'rage from this hand
" He took, and rais'd to drink, when lo !
" A minion of my savage band
" Struck deep the unexpected blow.

" Struggling

" Struggling with death, he turn'd his steed,
" And from me as he urged his way,
" His parting glance the dreadful deed
" Began already to repay.

" Not long his hand the curb retains,
" Vainly on absent friends he calls,
" In faint contention with his pains,
" Helpless, the martyr'd EDWARD falls.

" Dragg'd by his courser's speed at length
" O'er rudest roads and ways uneven,
" He finds, while losing life and strength,
" A sharp and thorny path to heaven.

" And dare I name that place, forbid
" To wretches, *pure*, compared with me?
" Though plung'd in hell, my crime unhid
" And unatoned must ever be.

" To ev'ry pile my selfish care
" Founded,* to compromise the deed,
" My form must nightly now repair,
" Again to see my Edward bleed.

* The monasteries of Amesbury, Worwell, &c.

" And

" And where, with mock religious zeal,
" And downcast eye, my arms I cross'd,
" I'm doom'd in genuine woe to feel
" The blood I shed, the heaven I lost!*

" And hark! a summons deep and drear,
" Unlike each sound of mortal ken,
" Warns me no more to linger here,
" But hence, and count my crimes again."

And deep and drear the summons came,
The spectre fled, the charm was broke,
And (haply you may be the same),
Right glad was I when I awoke.

* Edward was canonized soon after, and ranked among the martyrs; because he had defended the cause of the monks, ejected the secular clergy from their benefices, and made Dunstan archbishop of Canterbury.

LOCKMAN.

SUMMARY OF THE REIGN OF

ETHELRED the IId, surnamed THE UNREADY.

Born, A. D. 966. Began to reign 978, was crowned at Kingston-on-Thames. Married twice, first to Elgiva, an English Lady, by whom he had Edmund, his successor; Ethelstan, died an infant; Edwy, murdered by Canute; Edgiva, married an English Earl; Edgith, married Edric, the infamous Duke of Mercia;* and Edgina, married Uthred, Earl of Northumberland: by his second wife, Emma, of Normandy, he had Alfred and Edward, and a daughter named Goda, married to Gautier, Earl of Mantas, and to Eustace, Earl of Boulogne. Ethelred reigned 37 years. Died, April 23d, 1016, was buried in St. Paul's, London.

Principal Events.

A great massacre of the Danes throughout England, which occasioned an invasion of this country by Sweyn, King of Denmark, who after receiving an immense sum to re-embark, returned, put King Ethelred to flight and pillaged the whole kingdom.

Eminent Persons.

Dunstan, Siricus and Alphage, Archbishops of Canterbury.

Cotemporary Sovereigns.

Popes.

Benedict VII. 975. John XIV. 984. John XV. 985. Gregory V. 996. Silvester II. 999. John XVI. 1003. John XVII. 1004. Sergius IV. 1009. Benedict, 1012.

Emperors.

Of the East.—Basil II. 975.
Of the West.—Otho II. 973. Otho III. 983. Henry II. 1002.

Kings.

Of France.—Lothaire, 954. Louis V. 986. Hugh Capet, 987. Robert II. 997.

Of Scotland.—Kenneth III. 977. Constantine IV. 1002. Grimus, 1005. Malcolm II. 1014.

* *Vide* the next Reign.

ETHELRED THE UNREADY.

"As tedious as a King."

SHAKESPEARE.

"This Boy will turn out a Poltroon and a Coward."

St. Dunstan's Declaration at the Baptism of this Prince.

"Il paroit Maitre de tout les autres Hommes: Mais il "n'est pas Maitre de lui meme.

"On Voyoit plusieurs de ces Rois severement punis, non "pour les Maux qu'ils avoient faits, mais pour avoir neglige "le biens quils auroient du faire."

FENELON.

LITTLE recorded in this reign we find
But cowardice and cruelty combined;
Denmark again her warlike fortune tries,
And the "Norweyan banner flouts the skies;"
The fearful King pays tribute to the Dane,
Who partially retires; those who remain
In treacherous massacre are basely slain.
A full revenge th' unkingly act succeeds,
And ENGLAND in her every province bleeds;
Prelates and Nobles in the ruin share,
Nor sex nor age, the northern ruffians spare:

Our

Our seats of learning and its stores they burn,
Nor quit us but to menace swift return.
With Danish OLAVE came ambitious SWEYN,
Who here obtained a momentary reign;
And fell, as DUNSTAN'S tonsured tribe advance,
By spectred EDMUND'S * visionary lance;
CANUTE, too, vainly hail'd our Albion's Lord,
Sees ETHELRED by Londoners restored;
While gallant EDMUND flies to aid his sire,
And wake within his breast a noble fire;
In vain the pious son his King wou'd save,
Untaught by ills, to every vice a slave,
The Monarch sinks to an inglorious grave.

* The Monks reported that the spectre of Edmund, King of East Anglia, whose remains Sweyn had disturbed by laying the Abbey of Bury under military execution, fought under Duntan's banner,

SUMMARY OF THE REIGN OF

EDMUND, SURNAMED IRONSIDE.

Born, A. D. 989. Began to reign 1016. Married Algitha, the English Widow of a Danish Noble, by whom he had issue, Edward, surnamed the Outlaw, (from living out of England during the ascendancy of the Danes); and Edmond. Reigned but nine months. Was murdered 1017. Buried at Glastonbury.

Principal Events.

Several battles with Canute, King of Denmark, and a single combat between that Monarch and Edmund, who divided the kingdom with him.

Eminent Persons.

Livingus, Archbishop of Canterbury. Edric, Duke of Mercia, eminent for his treasons.

Cotemporary Sovereigns.

Pope.

Benedict VIII. 1012.

Emperors.

Of the East.—Basil II. 975.
Of the West.—Henry II. 1002.

Kings.

Of France.—Robert II. 997.
Of Scotland.—Malcolm II. 1014.

EDMUND IRONSIDE.

" Bellona's bridegroom."

SHAKESPEARE.

" 'Twas valour taught the art of war,
" To throw the lance and drive the car,
" Taught the bold warrior how to die,
" And bade the vanquish'd scorn to fly.

" And valour's self, to roam no more,
" Has come to Albion's white cliff'd shore."

LEIGH HUNT.

" We fought with swords! a brave man shrinks not at " death! from my early youth I have learn'd to dye the " steel of my lance in blood."

MALLET'S NORTHERN ANTIQUITIES.

" How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished!"

2 SAMUEL, chap. i.

SHORT was thy reign, thou gallant youth!
Tho' famed for valour, worth, and truth;
Thine unsuspicious soul ne'er thought,
Man's honour could be sold or bought.
And, trusting EDRIC's hollow guile,
EDRIC, by stratagem most vile,

In

In Sherstan's fight, with artful lie,
Caus'd thine embattled ranks to fly.*
Yet keen thy sword, and strong thine arm,
Which taught CANUTE to shrink from harm;
And rather England's rule divide
Than thy fierce prowess more abide:
At ATHELNEY, where single fight,
Was arbiter of double right.†
EDMUND, tho' soon thy race was run,
Thy life immortal fame has won;
Thy cruel death in endless shame
Involves a hated traitor's name:
For not a year thy reign had known,
'Ere murder mark'd thee for his own.
EDRIC, cursed EDRIC closed thine eyes,
And carried to CANUTE as prize

* Edric, observing the Danes gave ground, raised the bleeding head of a soldier on the point of a spear, and cried aloud, "Haro, Haro, flee Englonde! dead is Edmunde!" He afterwards betrayed Edmund at the battle of Asandone, or Ashdon, in Essex.

† Edmund perceiving Canute at the head of his forces, rode off from his own, and Canute advancing, a furious combat ensued, in which neither having much advantage, they agreed to divide the kingdom. The author of the Medulla Historiæ Anglicanæ, says, Canute was wounded and first proposed forbearance.

Thy

Thy bleeding corse, requiring at his hand,
Advancement o'er the Peerage of the land.
Th' indignant King assented with a frown,
And placed the traitor's head high o'er the regal town.
So the Amalekite, who Saul had slain,
Aspired from DAVID rich reward to gain.
So they who slew the King of Israel's Son,
And deem'd the Royal Psalmist's favour won,
Found retribution: such just guerdon be,
In ev'ry age, the MEED of TREACHERY!

DANISH SOVEREIGNS.

SUMMARY OF THE REIGN OF

CANUTE THE GREAT.

Crowned sole Monarch, 1017. Married, first to Alfwena, daughter of an Earl of Hampshire, by whom he had issue, Sweyn and Harold, afterwards Kings of Sweden and England: secondly to Emma, of Normandy, widow of Ethelred II. by whom he had Hardicanute, (King of Denmark and afterwards of England,) and Gunilda; the latter married Prince Henry, eldest son of Conrad, Emperor of Germany. Reigned 18 years. Died 1036. Buried at Winchester.

PRINCIPAL EVENTS.

A war with the Danes of two hundred years duration ended by Canute's accession. Scotland rendered tributary. The Church and Town of St. Edmundsbury, built in honour of Edmund, King of East Anglia, who had been killed by the Danes. Ashdon Priory, and St. Bennet's, Norfolk, founded by the King.

EMINENT PERSONS.

Elnothus, Archbishop of Canterbury. Edmond and Edward, sons of the late King Edmond, who were sent, with intent to have them murdered, to the King of Sweden, that Monarch, however, permitted them to retire to Hungary.

COTEMPORARY SOVEREIGNS.

Popes.

Benedict VIII. 1012. John XVIII. 1024. Benedict IX. 1033.

Emperors.

Of the East.—Basil II. 975, Constantine X. 1025. Romanus III. 1028. Michael IV. 1034.
Of the West.—Henry II. 1002. Conrad II. 1024.

Kings.

Of France.—Robert II. 997. Henry I. 1031.
Of Scotland.—Malcolm II. 1014.

CANUTE

CANUTE THE GREAT.

"A little flattery sometimes does well."

SHAKESPEARE.

"Ely's Monks sang cheerfully,
"When Canute the King was passing by;
"'Row to the shore, Knights,' said the King,
"'And let us hear these Churchmen sing.'"

WRITTEN BY CANUTE.—*Vide* STURT.

EDMUND by EDRIC thus unjustly slain,
Britons are now sole "liegemen to the DANE;"
Who, less by right than power of the sword,
Of England, Denmark, Norway, is the Lord.
Hence, servile courtiers as they bent the knee,
Hail'd him great master of the land and sea;
His better feeling courts th' unconscious waves,
To roll reproof around his cringing slaves.*

The Sons of EDMUND most unjustly sent
From their inheritance to banishment;
Seek Sweden's aid in vain, and, after, found,
A kind asylum on Hungarian ground.

* The story of Canute's reproof of his flatterers, is too generally known to need insertion here.

CANUTE

Canute in four the British state divides,
And Dane and Englishman in turn presides;
Olaus, of Norway, next his arms subdue,
And Scottish Malcolm pays the tribute due.*
A splendid pilgrimage to Rome he takes,
And needless homage to the Pontiff makes.
Rebuilt the Abbey, which his sire destroy'd
At Bury, hence new wealth the Monks enjoyed.
To appease Old Edgar Ath'ling's spirit,† who,
So legends tell, Canute's great father slew.
As (Pallas taught) Idomeneus of Crete
Gave to the useful arts protection meet;
Some wholsome laws the British Monarch made,
Encouraged genius, and assisted trade.
It has been said, that, "Like Augustus, he
"Shou'd never have been born." We also see
In the same sentence it has been replied,
That, "being born, he never shou'd have died."
Unjustly tho' the English crown he gain'd,
Few subjects of his Government complain'd;
Who, finally, to all his people proved
A Sovereign respected, and beloved.

* A. D. 1036. A tribute levied by the Danish invaders on the English, in arrear for several preceding reigns, and called Danegelt.

† *Vide* the reign of Ethelred the Second, page 105.

SUMMARY OF THE REIGN OF

HAROLD, SURNAMED HAREFOOT.

Began to reign, A. D. 1036. Reigned three years. Died without issue, 1039, at Oxford; was buried at Westminster.

PRINCIPAL EVENTS.

Prince Alfred, son of Etheldred II. invited to England by the King, and murdered, as it is supposed, by Earl Godwin.

EMINENT PERSONS.

Godwin, Earl of Kent, whose estates being afterwards swallowed by inundations of the sea, are now denominated the Goodwin Sands. Elnothus, Archbishop of Canterbury.

COTEMPORARY SOVEREIGNS.

Pope.

Benedict IX. 1033.

Emperors.

Of the East.—Michael IV. 1034.
Of the West.—Conrad II. 1024.

Kings.

Of France.—Henry I. 1031.
Of Scotland.—Malcolm II. 1014. Duncan I. 1034.

HAROLD HAREFOOT.

" Nought hath he done for us and nought deserved."
VOLTAIRE.

" En vain, du sang des Rois, dont je suis l'oppresseur,
" Les peuples abusés m'ont cru le défenseur,
" De quinze ans de travaux j'ai perdu tout le fruit.
" Croi moi, ces préjugés de sang et de naissance
" Revivront dans les cœurs, y prendront sa defense."
IBIDEM.

" In vain have I oppressed the blood of Kings, whilst the " deluded people adored me as their friend, if yet there lives " a hateful offspring, all the prejudice of birth and blood " revives."
SMOLLET's VOLTAIRE.

By mutual accord, it was decreed,
HARDICANUTE his father should succeed;
But absence seldom helps the claim of right,
And HAROLD, in fraternal honour's spite,
Usurp'd the Crown.—His reign was short, and these,
Some of his acts, are little fram'd to please;
Mixture of insignificance and pride,
(Proud to love walking better than to ride.*)

* Hence his surname of Harefoot.

To

To narrowness of soul he added guilt,
And caus'd the blood of ALFRED to be spilt.
ALFRED, (of EDMUND IRONSIDE the Son,)
Who cross'd the seas, by HAROLD's treachery won.
Well may my reader tire of tasteless rhymes,
Which but repeat a catalogue of crimes;
But faithful narrative must be content
With fact, nor seek for bland embellishment.
Else had some episode or harmless joke
Your present comfortable slumbers broke.
EDWARD, the brother of the Prince who fell,
Escap'd the snare, and 'twill be ours to tell
Hereafter of his fate; it now remains,
That HARDIC'NUTE a pow'rful army gains,
Against King HAROLD to assert his right;
But, while the doubtful issue of the fight
Depends, the reigning Monarch yields his breath,
And civil strife is ended by his death.

Earl GODWIN, lord of the once fertile land
Where many a bark now moulders in the sand;
First flourish'd in this reign, and by his aid,
The selfish King his brother's right betray'd.

SUMMARY OF THE REIGN OF

HARDICANUTE.

Began to reign, 1039. Reigned two years and a half. Died, without issue, 1042. Buried at Winchester.

Principal Events.

Worcester burnt for opposing the King's levies. Harold Harefoot taken from his grave and thrown into the Thames. Earl Godwin tried and acquitted of the murder of Prince Alfred. The custom of pledging each other while drinking first introduced.*

Eminent Persons.

Elnothus, Archbishop of Canterbury. Godwin, Earl of Kent.

Cotemporary Sovereigns.

Pope.

Benedict IX. 1033.

Emperors.

Of the East.—Michael V. 1041. Constantine XI. 1042.
Of the West.—Henry III. 1039.

Kings.

Of France.—Henry I. 1031.
Of Scotland.—Malcolm II. 1041. Duncan I. 1034.

* Assassinations of (and perhaps by) the English were so common, that no man would drink until another pledged his safety in the mean time.

HARDICANUTE.

" They call me a foul-feeder."

SHAKESPEARE.

" There's no bottom, none
" In my voluptuousness.

IBID.

To each unprincely appetite inclined,
HARDY in form, but imbecile in mind;
Two years (too long) he reign'd, when at a feast
The tyrant died, as he had lived, a beast.
A surfeit stopp'd the sensual Caitiff's breath,
And merry England celebrates his death.
Hogstide the anniversary they call
Of that good day which saw the glutton fall.
During his life, his brother from the grave
He dragg'd, and gave his body to the wave;
The wave rejects it, and fraternal crime,
Disturbs the hapless corse a second time.
Earl GODWIN joins with sacrilegious hand,
To hurl dead HAROLD from the shelt'ring land.*

* None of the names of these tools of a tyrant's caprice have escaped posterity. The diggers up of Harold are known to have been—Alfric, Archbishop of York; Earl Godwin; Styr, the steward; Edric, the sewer; and Troudle, the executioner.

J. P. ANDREWS.

GODWIN,

GODWIN, who, when Prince EDWARD dares to call,
To answer for young ALFRED's timeless fall;
With venal off'ring of a splendid barge
Buys from the shameless King his crime's discharge.
The Danegelt next provokes the subjects' ire,
Whose 'plaints are answer'd but with sword and fire;
In fine, tho' brief, from crime this reign appears
In two-and-twenty lines as many years.

THE SAXON LINE RESTORED.

SUMMARY OF THE REIGN OF EDWARD, SURNAMED THE CONFESSOR.

Born, A. D. 1001. Crowned on Easter-day, 1042, at Winchester. Married Editha, daughter of Earl Godwin. Reigned about 13 years. Died, without issue, January 5th, 1065.

PRINCIPAL EVENTS.

Earl Godwin's banishment and remarkable death. The King's mother, on a false accusation, submitted to the ordeal trial by fire, by walking over nine red-hot plough-shares, which she passed unhurt. The Danes repulsed. Malcolm III. of Scotland, restored by Edward's assistance, to the throne which Macbeth had usurped. The tax called Danegelt abolished. The King supposed to have the power of curing the evil. Westminster Abbey, St. Margaret's, St. Mary Ottery, in Devonshire, and other churches founded.

EMINENT PERSONS.

Siward, Earl of Northumberland. Godwin, Earl of Kent, Edsine and Robert, Archbishops of Canterbury.

COTEMPORARY SOVERIGNS.

Popes.

Benedict IX. 1033. Gregory VI. 1044. Clement II. 1046. Damascus II. 1048. Leo IX. 1049. Victor II. 1055. Stephen X. 1057. Nicholas II. 1059. Alexander II. 1064.

Emperors and Empress.

Of the East.—Constantine XI. 1042. Theodora. 1054. Michael VI. 1056. Isaac Comnenus, 1057. Constantine XII. 1059.

Of the West.—Henry III. 1039. Henry IV. 1056.

Kings.

Of France.—Henry I. 1031. Philip I. 1060.

Of Scotland.—Macbeth, 1040. Malcolm III. 1057.

EDWARD

EDWARD THE CONFESSOR.

"How he solicits Heaven
"Himself best knows, but strangely visited people,
"The mere despair of surgery, he cures,
"Hanging a golden stamp about their necks,
"Put on with holy pray'rs:—With this strange virtue,
"He hath a heavenly gift of prophecy;
"And sundry blessings hang about his throne
"That speak him full of grace."

SHAKESPEARE.

WHETHER King EDWARD own'd the powers
Our Bard immortal speaks of, is not our's
To canvass.—'Tis our province to set down
Sans comment, what, it was SUPPOSED the Crown
Did, or had pow'r to do.—Of Danegelt eas'd,
The subjects with the sovereign were pleas'd;
And gave him equally deserv'd applause,
For well digested and impartial laws.

What sad procession meets the eye?
Why trickles that reluctant tear
From chiefs who pass in order by,
What sounds of woe salute the ear?

The

The solemn Pibrochs mournful tone
  Which marks the step of yonder band
Proclaim that Scotia's legal throne
  Is stain'd by an usurper's hand.

And EDWARD lends his ready aid,
  And SIWARD leads a valiant train;
Who, by the tyrant undismay'd,
  Replace the son of DUNCAN slain.

The swan of Avon knew full well
  To touch each chord that thrills the heart;
Then let his magic numbers tell
  Of murd'rous guile and fiend-like art.

The blasted heath, the wizard crew,
  The "unsex'd" wife of GLAMIS' Thane,
Whose trait'rous hand his master slew,
  And earn'd a transitory reign.

Whate'er his skill, who says or sings,
  This moral he can only shew,
That crowns are but uncertain things,
And, (or in Subjects, or in Kings,)
  Error must surely end in woe.

For proofs that mortal saints are sometimes weak,
With little trouble, in this reign, we seek;
His breast was coldly fraught with filial love,
Who cou'd, remorseless, cause his mother prove
The fire ordeal. Next, for having wed
A child of one he had good cause to dread;
The coward Prince revenged upon the dame
That hate he dared not for her sire proclaim.

GODWIN, ambition's child, the scourge we're told
Of worthier men, "saucy and over bold"
In state affairs.—Revengeful, cruel, proud,
When least he deem'd—to fate's stern summons
bow'd.
'Tis said denial of Prince ALFRED's death
By his connivance, stopt the murd'rer's breath.*

'Twas EDWARD's wish, when dying, to resign
The regal chair to NORMAN WILLIAM's line;
But, while deliberation held the beam,
The king of terrors closed each worldly dream;
HAROLD, Earl Godwin's son, assumed the sway,
With what success a future page must say.

* Legends report that Godwin was supernaturally suffocated, immediately subsequent to a solemn declaration of his innocence respecting the Prince's murder.

SUMMARY OF THE REIGN OF

HAROLD THE SECOND.

Began to reign, A. D. 1065. Married twice, by his first wife, whose name is not correctly known, he had issue, three sons, Goodwin, Edmund, Magnus: by his second, Algitha, sister of Morcar and Edwin, he had a son, named Wolf, knighted by William Rufus, and two daughters, Gunilda, who was blind and passed her days in a convent; and a second who married Uladimir, Grand Duke of Russia. Harold was killed at the battle of Hastings, 1066, after a reign of one year, nine months, and as many days.

Principal Events.

Disputes and negociations with William, Duke of Normandy, which terminated in Harold's death, and the conquest of the kingdom.

Eminent Persons.

Leofwin and Gurth, brothers to the King. Stigand, Archbishop of Canterbury. Tosti, Earl of Northumberland.

Cotemporary Sovereigns.

Pope.

Alexander II. 1061.

Emperors.

Of the East.—Constantine XII. 1059.
Of the West.—Henry IV. 1056.

Kings.

Of France.—Philip I. 1060.
Of Scotland.—Malcolm III. 1057.

HAROLD THE SECOND.

" 'Twas party deceit,
" Help'd the Normans to beat,
" Of traitors they managed to buy land;
" Pict, Saxon, or Dane,
" Had assail'd us in vain,
" While true to the king of the island.
" Brave Harold fought hard for the island,
" He lost both his life and the island;
" And the records of fame
" Shall add to his name,
" Like a BRITON he died for his island."

T. DIBDIN'S SONGS.

THE truth demands, yet we record with pain,
How brief the honours of this short liv'd reign.
Crowns take some value from a nation's voice,
And HAROLD was, 'tis said, the PEOPLE's choice:
HAROLD, (the son of GODWIN,) who proclaim'd
That he by EDWARD was successor named;
WILLIAM, the Duke of NORMANDY, declares,
The same pretence; and these two self-named heirs,
Alike, rejecting each the other's word,
Refer decision to the sharpest sword;
Mean time, as oft the muse of hist'ry sings,
The subjects suffer for contending Kings.

WILLIAM

WILLIAM 'ere yet his fortune he essayed,
With NORWAY'S chief, and HAROLD'S brother made
A league that they should first the isle invade;
Their early efforts with success were crown'd,
And British men gave way on British ground.
Northumberland and Mercia's Earls were beat,
But HAROLD'S arm so well that loss redeem'd
That neither of his foes surviv'd defeat.
And victory in mercy's smile was drest,
The last, last time she beam'd,
On hapless HAROLD'S crest.
To Norway's son the King allow'd retreat,
And greatly gave him back his father's captive fleet.

But whose the ships afar descried,
Reflected by the glassy tide,
Where chiefs in arms refulgent ride,
Our fears exciting?

'Tis Norman WILLIAM and his band,
Near, and more near, they make the land!
And who their prowess shall withstand,
For England fighting?
Mark!

Mark! high exalted o'er the rest,
Where BAIEUX' Bishop proudly drest,
Blesses the crew with hands unblest,
To blood inviting!

They land! To earth see mail-clad WILLIAM falls,
His troops the omen not appals;
Turf, and the cotter's thatch, his warriors bring,
As seizen of the soil, and hail the invader, King.

What knight, in breast-plate wrought with gold,
Marshals yon troop of bowmen bold,
Who land in numbers yet untold,
Each other chearing?

'Tis AIMAR, with good reason vain
Of troops he leads from ACQUITAIN,
Each knight of whom some peer has slain,
No foeman fearing.

And there, a thousand men at arms
FITZ-OSBORN's shrill-toned clarion charms,
While every echoing blast alarms
Our startled hearing.

The

The deep drum rolls, and, as the threat'ning throng,
Beneath their frowning banners move along,
The shore resounds with Rollo's martial song.

De Beaumont, Lacy, Pevrel, each an host,
(The noblest warriors from the Norman coast)
D'Evreux, Fitz-Richard, with that chieftain famed,
Charles Martel, and (too num'rous to be named)
Longueville, De Thours, Grantmesnil, and Mortaigne,
De Estaples, Warrean, Giffard, and a train,
With Eustace de Boulogne of men renowned.
And, hark again the drum, and hark the trumpet's sound!
Forward they march, and now, from William sent,
A Norman herald seeks the royal tent;
There fiercely throws his master's gauntlet down,
Who proffers single combat for the crown.
Harold with stern disdain the pledge denies,
And on his people's love, and heav'n's high aid, relies.

Yet

Yet why before the arbitrative day,
Expectant of the fight,
Did Britons pass the night
In song unseemly and carousal gay?
While to the sacred pow'r that rules the skies,
Unnumber'd NORMAN prayers and praises rise.

'Tis dawn!—'Tis day! once more the trumpet's throat
Brays bold defiance—who can tell
What numbers in its dreadful note
Have heard their dying knell?

No thund'ring cannon here the field affrights,
But from a thousand chosen knights
The Norman bowstring's fatal twang
Echoed by groans responsive rang.
Not there with simultaneous sound
The well-timed musquetry is found;
But on the glitt'ring ranks,
On iron helms the falling iron clanks,
And cleaves through shiver'd mail with dreadful wound.

Not there, as late on Maida's plains,
The British *bayonet* the palm obtains;

But

But sturdy *pikemen* pierce th' embattled field,
And bear to earth who bears th' opposing shield.

The English bill, dread weapon, hews it way,
And HAROLD's valour almost claims the day.
Three foaming coursers under WILLIAM slain
Add blood to blood on the ensanguined plain:
The Duke undaunted, "dares again the field,"
The dauntless monarch scorns alike to yield;
His loyal soldiers gallantly contend,
While Norman hopes of conquest nearly end;
The Kentish phalanx ev'ry onset dares,
And fierce invasion pauses and despairs.

O, stratagem! in war, as love, allow'd,
Too oft thy keen-brain'd cunning foils the brave;
Too oft his living laurels charm the crowd,
Who vanquish'd, but for thee, had found a grave.

While fortune, and while justice in the scale,
Alternately our hopes and fears divide:
While justice seems a moment to prevail,
See fortune turn, by artifice, the tide.

The foe before the English force retreat,
The English follow to unlook'd defeat;
For suddenly the wily band returns,
The fray renew'd with ten-fold fury burns.
Again the spear, the battle-axe, the bow,
Destroy the van, and lay the distant low!
The British, late of victory secure,
Outwitted thus, the contest scarce endure.

But HAROLD, HAROLD, now supremely great,
Proudly superior to thy savage fate;
Once, twice, and thrice, from rank to rank he flew,
Once, twice, and thrice, his ranks the fight renew.
Again he leads 'em with resistless rage,
Again a fruitless war the Normans wage;
Another onset ends the doubtful strife,
He leads, he falls, and loses but his life!
His crown he never lost, who, unsurpast,
Maintain'd it like a Briton, to the last.
While hand to hand death threaten'd him in vain,
The shaft accurs'd that pierc'd his royal brain
Left WILLIAM less a victor than the slain.

Ill-fame

Ill-fame betide the coward hand that drew
The fatal string, and such an hero slew.
Two gallant brothers* fighting by his side,
Thousands of faithful hearts, their leader's pride,
His patriot laurels with his fate divide.

Peace to their manes! cou'd th' unequal pen
But justly celebrate the glorious men;
The Poet's lay a deathless fame shou'd raise,
And deeds immortal meet immortal praise.

* Gurth and Leofwin.

END OF PART THE THIRD.

ENGLAND.

PART THE FOURTH.

From the Conquest to the Signature of Magna Charta.

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THE

THE NORMANS.

SUMMARY OF THE REIGN OF
WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR.

Born at Falaise in Normandy, A.D. 1025. Crowned King of England, 1066. Married Matilda (or Maud) daughter of Baldwin V. Earl of Flanders; by whom he had issue, four sons and six daughters; viz. Robert, succeeded to the dukedom of Normandy; Richard, was killed by a deer in New Forest; William and Henry, succeeded in turn to the throne of England; Cicely, was Abbess of a Monastery in Caen; Constantine, married Alain Fergeant, Duke of Bretagne; Adeliza, died an infant; Adela, married Stephen, Earl of Blois; Gundred, married William Warrenne, Earl of Surrey; Agatha, contracted to Alphonso, King of Gallicia, died on her voyage to that kingdom. William the Conqueror died 1087, and was interred at Caen in Normandy.

Principal Events.

The conquest of England. The Curfew (or cover fire) bell established, at which signal fires and candles through the kingdom were arbitrarily extinguished at eight o'clock in the evening. The English language forbidden at court, and in courts of law. The country laid waste for sixty miles, between the Humber and Trent, and the New Forest formed. Domesday-book made, containing a regular account of all the landed property in England.

Eminent Persons.

Prince Edgar Athling. Stigand and Lanfrank, Archbishops of Canterbury. Earls Edwin and Morcar, Earls of Northumberland and Mercia.

COTEMPORARY SOVEREIGNS.

Popes.

Alexander II. 1061. Gregory VII. 1037. Victor III. 1086.

Emperors.

Of the East.—Constantine XII. 1059. Romanus VI. 1068. Michael VII. 1071. Nicephorus I. 1078. Alexis Comnenus, 1081.

Of the West.—Henry VI. 1056.

Kings.

Of France.—Philip I. 1060.

Of Scotland.—Malcolm III. 1057.

WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR.

"Le Premier qui fut Roi, fut un soldat heureux."

VOLTAIRE.

"Arma, Virumque cano."

VIRGIL.

"Able, ambitious, generous, arbitrary, cruel."

ANON.

"Julius Cæsar the Roman,
"Who yielded to no man,
"Came by water, he cou'dn't come by land;
"And Dane, Pict, and Saxon,
"Their homes turned their backs on,
"And all for the sake of our island.

"Then another great war-man,
"Call'd Billy the Norman,
"Cried, truly I never liked my land;
"And 'twou'd be much more handy,
"To leave this Normandy,
"And live on yon nice little island."

T. DIBDIN'S SONGS.

He loved, understood, and was successful in war."

LOCKMAN.

PARODY.

THE CURFEW tolls the knell of Danish sway,
The British Chiefs their arms reluctant yield,
The soldiers homeward march their weary way,
And leave to WILLIAM the disputed field!

Now

Now fades each gleam of freedom on the sight,
And ev'ry Englishman is doom'd a slave,
Save those who nobly perish'd in the fight,
And sunk unconquer'd to a patriot grave.

Save GURTH and LE'FWIN to their brother true,
Who shared with HAROLD that disastrous hour,
Save MORCAR, EDWIN, and a loyal few,
Who lived to combat oft the victor's power.

Beneath those ruin'd walls* that ivy's shade,
Where whitening bones in sad promiscuous heap,
Unseemly to the trav'ler's eye are laid,
The gallant victims of the battle sleep.

The hollow drum at incense-breathing morn,
No more resounding thro' the tented shed,
The warlike clarion, or the echoing horn,
No more shall rouse them from their lowly bed.

For them no more shall royal HAROLD show'r
Reward for loyalty and val'rous deed,
No lady fair awaits them in the bower,
To pay with beauty's smile the warrior's meed.

* Battel Abbey, in Sussex, where bones are yet to be seen piled up, supposed to be those of the fallen in that memorable fight.

Oft

Oft did invaders to their prowess yield,
Their biting bills full many a helm have broke,
How loudly rang their anlace on the shield,
How bow'd the foe beneath their sturdy stroke!

Let not the modern soldier mock their toil
Who, cased in iron, trod th' ensanguined plain,
Nor light-arm'd cavalry at heroes smile
Whose mail-clad steeds still answer'd to the reign.

The rich pelisse, the gorgeous epaulette,
The tube destructive, and the sabre brave,
Can only pay the same much honoured debt,
The paths of glory lead but to the grave.

Nor men of wealth impute to these the blame,
No marble monument, with studied lays,
At PAUL's or PETER's consecrates their fame,
While nasal organ'd vergers chaunt their praise.

Cou'd PRAXITELES, were he now alive,
Cou'd famed Pygmalyon, or Promethean lore,
Cou'd Roubilliac's or Bacon's art revive,
The daring chiefs who fell to rise no more?

Perhaps

Perhaps in this neglected spot is laid
Some head, once fraught with diplomatic fire,
Hands that CALCUTTA's sceptre might have sway'd,
And brought from India many a rich Jaghire.

But commerce to their eyes her figur'd page,
Rich with a Nabob's spoil, did ne'er unroll,
No navy seconded advent'rous rage,
To barter wealth "from Indus to the Pole."

Full many a mind with force to guide a storm,
Or politics, or trade, must think alone;
Full many a heart of valour's boldest form
Is doom'd to wither in the ranks unknown.

Some ABERCROMBIE who, with dauntless breast,
Aggressing Gaul had chaced from Egypt's shore;
Some MARLBRO', WOLFE, CORNWALLIS, here may rest,
A SMITH, a STUART, WELLINGTON, or MOORE.

The thanks of British Senates to command,
The threats of Gaul's COLOSSUS to despise,
To fight for freedom in Iberia's land,
And raise our fame in LUSITANIA's eyes.

Their

Their lot forbad, nor circumscribed alone
Their growing virtue's but their crimes confin'd,
Forbade to wade thro' blood to Gallia's throne,
And shut the gates of freedom on mankind.

The struggling pangs of murder'd truth to hide,
To quench the useful ardor of the press,
To heap the shrine of self-created pride
With honours which but make the wearer less.

Far from subverting an establish'd throne,
Such modern doctrines were by them denied,
They'd hands and hearts to combat for their own,
And for their sov'reign's rights they fought and died.

Yet e'en these bones which grave nor tomb protect,
Nor sculptured arts, with letter'd graces vie,
Oft shall the feeling passer by reflect,
And pay their patriot virtue with a sigh.

For who to dumb forgetfulness a prey
But thinks on him whose patriotic mind
Can for his country cast his life away,
Tho' mindful of the friends he leaves behind.

Nor

Nor name, nor years, sung by the loftiest muse,
Cou'd praise to equal their desert supply,
Who, scorning Norman WILLIAM, dared refuse
To yield, and for that bold refusal die.

For WILLIAM, bane of those most honour'd dead,
Few are the lines that may his tale relate,
A life of warfare in his reign he led,
His sons, and HAROLD's sons, still cross'd his fate.

And foreign wars he waged, and built the Tow'r,
And caus'd our laws the Norman tongue to speak,
And tax'd poor devils who were in his power,
And help'd the strong to triumph o'er the weak.

The Exchequer first at Westminster he placed,
Next, to secure of hunting ground a stock,
New forest for his pleasure he laid waste,
And made folks go to bed at eight o'clock.

At MANTES, to burn a town it was his will,
His horse took fright, WILL pull'd him up in vain,

And,

And, or he died, or was used very ill,
For certainly they buried him at Caen.

There, at due stated periods of the year,
Were requiems and masses sung and said,
And little choristers oft warbled there,
As choristers will do when they are paid.

Around his tomb they march in sad array,
Where is an Epitaph inscribed most fair,
Whether the following, I dare not say,
Because I own, I never saw it there.

The EPITAPH.

Here rests his head upon its native earth
A Prince to fame and fortune greatly known,
Of high ambition, tho' of doubtful birth,
ALBION he saw, and mark'd her for his own.

Large was his army, numerous his fleet,
Fate did commensurate success send down,
He gave to HAROLD a severe defeat,
He gain'd from victory, all he wish'd, a crown.

No farther seek his merits to disclose,
Or on a conqueror's faults too nicely look,
He'll find, when waking from the tomb's repose,
His sentence is inscribed in doomsday-book.*

* Doomsday-book, is a register now extant, of all landed possessions, introduced among the feudal regulations by the Conqueror.

SUMMARY OF THE REIGN OF

WILLIAM II. SURNAMED RUFUS.

Born, A. D. 1056. Began to reign, September 23, 1087. Died, without issue, August 2, 1100, after reigning thirteen years.

Principal Events.

Normandy invaded, and an expedition undertaken to the Holy Land. Quarrels between the King and Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury. The Tower, Westminster-hall, and London-bridge built. The King killed in New Forest.

Eminent Persons.

Lanfranc and Anselm, Archbishops of Canterbury. Odo, Bishop of Baieux. Flamlard, Bishop of Durham.

Cotemporary Sovereigns.

Popes.

Victor III. 1086. Urban II. 1088. Paschal II. 1099.

Emperors.

Of the East.—Alexis Comnenus, 1081.
Of the West.—Henry, 1056.

Kings.

Of France.—Philip I. 1060.
Of Scotland.—Malcolm III. 1059. Donald VII. 1093. Donald VIII. 1095. Edgar, 1097.

WILLIAM RUFUS.

"And that Red King, who, while of old
"Through Boldrewood the chase he led,
"By his loved huntsman's arrow bled."

WALTER SCOTT.

"Too low for a high praise, and too little for a great praise."

SHAKESPEARE.

"So, so is good, very good, very excellent good, and yet it is not, it is but *so so*."

SHAKESPEARE.

KING WILLIAM RUFUS wore red hair,
Was rather short, and very fat,
His eyes, we're told, were not a pair,
Yet who could blame the King for that?

His brother ROBERT claim'd a right
To reign, which Bishop ODO aided,
But when they were both beat in fight,
One fled, and t'other was degraded.

The holy war, by zealots led,
Began, and much the muse it irks,
That Infidels like Christians bled,
And Christian soldiers fought like Turks.

Westminster Hall King William rear'd,
When finish'd swore in princely huff,
The fabrick to his eyes appear'd
Not half-a-quarter large enough.*

The sea, which, as CANUTE had shown,
Respects nor wealth, nor rank, nor pow'r,
O'erflowed Earl Godwin's land, since known
As Goodwin Quicksands, to this hour.

New Forest, which the conqu'ror meant
For sport, was of his son the bane,
There by a shaft, which chance missent,
In prime of life was RUFUS slain.

Here too, his brother and his nephew fell,
By darts dispatch'd from undiscovered hand,
Which folks around, as fearful judgments tell,
On those, who for the chace despoil'd the poor man's land.

* The author hopes he has not exceeded the reported character of William's coarseness and vulgarity.—When ten Englishmen had been cleared by the ordeal of fire, for the charge of killing dear, Rufus exclaimed, "Pretty justice above, indeed, to let "ten such scoundrels escape!"

J. P. ANDREWS.

Yet William exhibited a mixture of firmness and *naivete*, when a pilot was fearful of embarking with him on an expedition in tempestuous weather; the Monarch asked, "whether he had ever heard of a King being drowned."

Nor

Nor much lamented was the Norman King,
Whose people were in most reduced condition;
His Ministers had tax'd each sort of thing,
For there were then no Whigs in opposition.

Of his attire the Sov'reign took due heed,
As you shall learn from ancient lines annex'd,
ROBERT OF GLO'STER *scripsit* what you'll read,
Tho' CAMDEN rather modernized the text.

Poetry of the Year 1098.

Which the author of the Medulla Historia Anglicanæ calleth "a pretty passage."

"His Chamberlain him brought, as he rose on a day,
"A morrow for to wear, a pair of hose of say;
"He ask'd what they costen'd? "Three shillings," he said,
"Fie a dible," quoth the King, "to say so vile a deed,
"King's to wear so vile a cloths, that costened no more!
"Buy a pair for a marke, or thou shall reu it sore."
"A worse pair, sure enough, the other him brought,
"And said they costened a marke—Unneath he then bought;
"Aye!—Bel-ami," quoth the King, "these are well bought;
"In this manner serve me, otherwise serve me not."

SUMMARY OF THE REIGN OF

HENRY I. SURNAMED BEAUCLERC.

Born at Winchester, 1068. Began to reign, 1100. Twice married, first to Maud, daughter of Malcolm, King of Scotland; afterwards to Adeliza, daughter of Geoffry, Earl of Louvaine. He had issue only by his first Queen, viz. William, Duke of Normandy, who by the carelessness of drunken pilots was drowned near Barfleur, which tragic event so affected the King he was never seen to smile afterwards. Maud, married to the Emperor Henry V. and a second time to Geoffry Plantagenet, Count of Anjou. Henry is also said to have had twelve natural children, of whom Robert, Earl of Glocester, was the chief. The King died at St. Denis, in France, of a surfeit, from eating Lampreys, 1135. Buried at Reading.

Principal Events.

Henry seizes the crown while his elder brother Robert is absent in the Holy land. Grants a charter to the Barons to purchase their support. Conquers Normandy, defeats and imprisons Robert for life. The quarrel with Archbishop Anselm renewed; the King resigns the right of investiture, but preserves his claim to homage from the Bishops. The great standard of France taken. The Welch repulsed. Shipwreck and loss of the King's son. The Sees of Carlisle and Ely; the Abbies of Hide, Cirencester, and Priory of Dunstable erected and endowed.

Eminent Persons.

Anselm and Radulph, Archbishops of Canterbury. William Crito, son of Duke Robert of Normandy. Robert, Earl of Shrewsbury.

COTEMPORARY SOVEREIGNS.

Popes.

Pascal II. 1099. Gelastius II. 1118. Calixtus II. 1119. Honorius II. 1124. Innocent II. 1130.

Emperors.

Of the East.—Alexis Comnenus, 1081. John Comnenus, 1118.

Of the West.—Henry IV. 1056. Henry V. 1106. Lotharius II. 1125.

Kings.

Of France.—Philip I. 1060. Lewis VI. 1108.

Of Portugal.—Alphonsus I. 1112.

Of Scotland.—Alexander I. 1107. David I. 1124.

HENRY

HENRY BEAUCLERC.

" But who shall teach my harp to gain
" A sound of the romantic strain
" Whose Anglo-Norman tones while're
" Cou'd win the royal Henry's ear.
" Famed BEAUCLERE call'd, for that he loved,
" The minstrel, and his lay approved."

WALTER SCOTT.

" For learning is better than house or land."

SCHOOL BOY'S POETRY.

" Henry was called 'Beauclerc,' from his attention to " learning, he had heard his father say, that 'Illiterate Kings' " were little better than crowned asses," and determined not " to come under that description."

CAMDEN.

OF HENRY'S learning, and the wise reform,
He in the royal houshold made,—nay more,
Abolish'd nightly curfew bells that rung
Throughout the land of Albion, and deranged
At early hour the interesting chat
Of lovers just affianc'd—or of friends,
Who, brought to council by the hope of gain
On trade, were speculating hundreds deep;
Or learned clerks, in disquisition grave,
By classic lamps; or poets, poor as I,

Condemn'd

Condemn'd to rhyme for ways and means to eat;
Sing, muse historic—Widows too, we learn,
By his command have jointures, and are free
To marry as they list, and marry did,
Merely to shew the loyal reverence
They bore the King's behest.—The laws 'erst made
By the Confessor EDWARD were restored
By HENRY, who, to please the English, wed
With MAUD, descendant of the Scottish King,
And EDGAR ATH'LING's sister.*—At this time

* Queen Maud, or Matilda, was the delight of the English, both on account of her descent and goodness of heart. To her we owe the first stone arched bridges England ever possessed:—she built two at Stratford, in Essex, (thence called De Arcubus, or Le Bow,) where she had nearly been drowned for want of such a convenience. What follows is part of an eulogy on her, preserved by Camden:

Prospera non lætam faceré, nec aspera tristem,
Prospera terror ei, aspera risus erant,
Non decor efficit fragilem non sceptra superbam
Sola potens humilis, sola Pudica decens.

Imitated.

By woes her mind was near cast down,
Nor by success beguiled;
She met good fortune with a frown,
At fortune's frowns she smiled:
Where shall we find a Queen with this to pair,
Tho' sceptred, humble—chaste, tho' great and fair?

J. P. ANDREWS.

King

King HENRY'S BROTHER ROBERT claim'd the crown,
And from the Holy Land return'd with troops
His fancied right to aid—subdued, forgiven,
And set at liberty, again he fights
Against his brother; captive ta'en, and sent
To Cardiff, whence, in vain, he tries escape,
And, first deprived of sight, soon finds a grave;
Glo'ster Cathedral holds the Duke's remains,
Encag'd in trellis'd iron. Heart of Oak
Supplies a figure, armed *cap-a-pie*,
But such as modern warriors would disdain,
And ladies' ridicule on gay parade.
LEWIS, of France, invades the Norman lands,
Him HENRY meets, and quells th' invading King.
But when returning, mournful is the tale,
Prince WILLIAM, BEAUCLERC'S son, a splendid train
Of Knights and Nobles, with the Princess MAUD,
And many worthies perish'd in the waves!
And when to Normandy the King return'd,
By (not habitual) intemp'rance, he
Met also with his death. He was interred
At Reading Abbey, which his zeal endow'd.

Twice

Twice did he wed—his second Queen, the child
Of GODFREY, of Loraine. In time of dearth
(From April till the harvest time,) he fed
Ten thousand of his Norman subjects,—built,
In Oxfordshire, famed Woodstock Palace, which
Still bears the stamp of his munificence.

Yet will the liberal minded mourn to hear
That, having ta'en in war a hapless bard,
Who in some paltry measures (like to mine,)
Had ridiculed his greatness, his revenge,
(Tho' Sov'reigns for the poet pleaded hard,)
Depriv'd the wretched captive of his eyes,
Whose agony ensuing caus'd his death.*
Henry Beauclerc, of all our British Kings,
Shou'd have respected the proud name he bore,
Nor by inordinate and mean revenge,
Have own'd the poet's satyre had its force.

* "No, no," said the irritated King to a great foreign Prince who interceded for the wretched poet, "for this man being forsooth a Wit, a Bard, and a Minstrel, hath composed many indecent songs against me, and moreover hath sung them openly to the great entertainment of my enemies. Now, since it hath pleased God to deliver him into my hands, he shall be punished to deter others from the like petulance." So the sentence took place, and the imprudent poet died of the wounds he receiv'd in struggling with the executioner.

ORDERICUS VITELIS.—*Vide* ANDREWS.

In

In this King's reign a house of monk's first gave
The Dunmow Charter, which entitles those
Who live in wedlock, *sans* debate, *one* year
To a fine flitch of bacon—one blest pair
Ask'd and obtained it; and about that time,
Thames water fail'd, the river bed was dry,
Men, women, children, walked across where now
Stands London Bridge.—This and the happy two
Who gain'd the Dunmow Flitch, astonish'd much
The gaping vulgar, and we hav'nt heard
That either prodigy occur'd again.

A Muse, cotemporary with the King
By way of Elegy, thus chose to sing.

Poetry of the Year 1135.

King Henry is ded! bewty of the world,
For whom is grete dole;
The Goddes now maken room for their kind brother,
For he is Sole.
Mercurius in speech, Marce in battayle,
In hest strong Appollo;
Jupiter in hest,* egall with Saturn,
And enemie to Cupido;
King he was a right,
And man of most myght,
And glorious in rayninge.

And when he left his crowne
Then fell honour down,
For misse of such a King;
Normandy then gave Lowre,
For loss of their flowre,
And sange wel-a-way!
Englond made mone,
And Scotland did grone,
For to see that day!

Vide "The Muse's Library."

* Hest—Command.

The

THE SAXON LINE RESTORED.

SUMMARY OF THE REIGN OF STEPHEN.

Born at Blois, 1105. Crowned, December 6, 1135. Married Maud, daughter of Eustace, Earl of Boulogne. Had issue, Baldwin, Eustace, William, Maud, Mary, and two natural sons, William, and Gervase, Abbot of Westminster. Reigned nineteen years. Died 1154. Buried at Faversham.

PRINCIPAL EVENTS.

Stephen usurps the crown from the Empress Maud. The Barons assert their independence, and erect upwards of eleven hundred castles. The Empress Maud, with various success, attempts to gain the crown, her claim is at length compromised in favour of her son's succession. The Welch successful against the English. David, of Scotland, invades England and is repulsed. The Abbies of Coggeshall, Essex; Farness, in Lancashire; Carew and Higham, with an Hospital at York, and a Monastery at Faversham, erected. A fire, beginning at London stone, burnt eastward to Aldgate, and westward to St. Paul's.

EMINENT PERSONS.

John of Salisbury, Roger de Hoveden, Henry of Huntingdon, Ailred, Abbot of Revesby, Geoffry of Monmouth, Bishop of St. Asaph's, William of Malmsbury, historians lived about this period. Curboil and Theobald, Archbishops of Canterbury. Thurstan, Archbishop of York, Lieutenant to the King, appoints Ralph, Bishop of Durham, his General against the Scots. Robert, Earl of Glocester. Ranulph, Earl of Chester.

COTEMPORARY SOVEREIGNS.

Popes.

Cœlestine II. 1143. Lucius II. 1144. Eugenius III. 1145. Anastatices IV. 1153. Adrian IV. 1154.

Emperors.

Of the East.—John Comnenus, 1118. Emanuel Comnenus, 1143.

Of the West.—Lothaire II. 1125. Conrad III. 1128. Frederick I. 1152.

Kings.

Of France.—Lewis VI. 1108. Lewis VII. 1137.

Of Portugal.—Alphonsus I. 1112.

Of Scotland.—David I. 1124

STEPHEN.

STEPHEN.

"King Stephen was a worthy Peer."

OLD BALLADS.

"A fellow of infinite jest."

SHAKESPEARE.

"Stephen was a man of great facetiousness, and much of "his success is to be imputed to the familiar pleasantry of "his conversation."

WILLIAM OF MALMSBURY.

"Since they have made me their King," said the gallant Stephen, "why do they now forsake me? By the birth of "God I will not be called an abdicated Monarch."

IBIDEM.—*Vide* J. P. ANDREWS.

BRAVE to a fault, of humour fair and free,
Yet his possession of Old England's Throne,
Was a *faux pas*, since reasons strong there be,
To prove the property was not his own.

The daughter of King HENRY, MAUD by name,*
(MATILDA, ladies, sounds more sweet, I ween,)
Was heiress—and King STEPHEN, to his shame,
Had sworn allegiance to her as his Queen.

* Maud, or Matilda, first married the Emperor Henry IV. and afterwards Geoffry Plantagenet, Earl of Anjou, by whom she had King Henry II. of England.

Not

Not that I blame the Monarch for his oath,
'Twas merely common honesty to take it,
But every gentleman should be right loath
Having an affidavit made to break it.

Much in this fashion too Matilda thought,
Whose reasons were so back'd with horse and foot,
That tho', while axe and sword were good, he fought,*
He lost his liberty and crown to boot.

But "*fortune de la guerre*" is quick in change,
Stephen was freed, and Maud forced to be off in
(Conveyance for a living Queen most strange,)
Not coach or chariot, but a screw'd up coffin.†

In strains of Scott we next declare,
How "Scotland's dauntless King and Heir,
"(Although with them they led
"Galwegians, wild as ocean's gale,
"And Lodon's Knights, all sheath'd in mail,

* It was in this battle Stephen used the words above quoted.

† Several historians represent a coffin as the vehicle in which the Empress was reduced to make her escape.

"And

"And the bold men of Teviotdale,)
"Before his standard fled."*

Next came Plantagenet (Matilda's son),
To make essay for what his mother won;
But England's Monarch kept the youth at bay,
Till Eustace, Stephen's hope and heir,
(Death shews for princes little care,)
Was from the scene of warfare snatch'd away.

Then, and you wo'nt imagine him unwise,
King STEPHEN, to conclude the strife,
With his opponent made this compromise,
He was to wear the crown while he had life,
Mean time young HENRY swore to keep the peace,
And take the sceptre at the King's decease.

Nor did he long survive.—For nineteen years
But little in this reign appears,

* This was attributed by the superstition of the times (when David I. with his son Henry, invaded Northumberland, in 1136,) to the holy banner of St. Cuthbert, under which the English marched, and owed to its efficacy the great victory they obtained in the bloody battle of Northallerton, or Arton Moor.

Vide MARGERION, *Notes to Canto* II.

Save contests sung of—and that Chiefs had leave,
Often in law's despite,
To build strong castles, and bereave,
By force and arms, the poor man of his right.
The Canon law, cotemporaries say,
First in this reign, to England found its way.

Stephen's remains at Faversham inurn'd,
Remain'd until, disgrace upon their names,
Reformers, who dug up, pull'd down, and burn'd,
Threw the once valiant Sov'reign in the Thames;
With sacrilegious hands profaned the dead,
For paltry plunder of his coffin'd lead.

LINE OF PLANTAGENET;

OR THE

HOUSE OF ANJOU.

SUMMARY OF THE REIGN OF

HENRY II. SURNAMED COURT MANTLE.

Eldest son of Geoffry, Earl of Anjou, &c. and the Empress Maud, heiress to Henry I. of England. Born at Mans, A. D. 1131. Knighted by David, King of Scotland, 1149. Made his first campaign, 1152. Stephen of England adopted him, 1153. He was crowned at London, 1154; and at Worcester, 1155. Married Eleanor, of Aquitaine, heiress of Poietou and Guienne, by whom he had issue, Richard and John, who succeeded him; Geoffry, killed in a tournament at Paris; Henry, who married Margaret, daughter of Lewis VII. of France; and Philip died young: Maud, married to Henry, the Lion, Duke of Saxony and Bavaria; Eleanor, married to Alphonso, King of Castile; and Joan, espoused first to William the II. King of Sicily, surnamed the Good,* and afterwards to Raymond, of Thoulouse. Henry reigned 35 years. Died at Chinon, in Tourane, 1189; and was buried at Font Evraud.

Principal Events.

Foreigners banished the kingdom. Unnecessary fortresses destroyed. Judges first appointed to go the circuits at stated periods. Differences between the King and Becket. Murder of that prelate, and death of Fair Rosamond. Frequent rebellion of the King's son. Conquest of Ireland. William, King of Scots taken prisoner. Philip, Earl of Flanders, invades England and is defeated.

* This Monarch had refused the daughters of the Eastern and Western Emperors, and at the instance of Peter of Blois, a northern Ecclesiastic, preferred an English Princess.

Eminent Persons.

Theobald, Becket, Richard (a Monk,) and Baldwin, Archbishops of Canterbury. Strongbow, Earl of Pembroke, who, with Robert Fitz-stephens, was general in the Irish war. William Longsword, Earl of Salisbury; Geoffry, Archbishop of York;* and Morgan, Bishop of Durham; natural sons of the King, the two first by Fair Rosamond, the latter by a daughter of Sir Ralph Blewitt. Hugh Lacy, and Ralph de Glanville, justiciaries of Ireland and England. Gilbert Foliot, John Hanwell.

Cotemporary Sovereigns.

Popes.

Adrian IV. 1154.† Alexander II. 1159. Lucius III. 1181.

* He was made Bishop of Lincoln, when no more than a proud greedy boy; Walter de Mapes, a humourous Chaplain, (called the Anacreon of England) used, when he heard him swear "by his father's royalty," to bid him remember "his mother's honesty;" it was said of him tho' not old enough to feed his sheep, he was able enough to shear them,—his affectionate duty to Henry at his dying hour, and his valour in the field ought, however, to throw a veil over his faults.

J. P. Andrews.

† Pope Adrian was an Englishman, by name Nicholas Breakspear, he was choked by a fly, in the fifth year of his Popedom; he sent the following version of the Lord's Prayer to England, to be taught his countrymen:

Ure Fadyr in Heaven rich,
Thy name be halyed ever lich,
Thou bring us thy michel bliss,
Als hit in Heaven y doe,
Evear in y the earth been it alsoe,
That holy brede that lasteth ay
Thou send ous, this ilke day.
Forgive ous all that we have don,
As we forgive uch other mon.
Ne let ous fall into no founding,
Ac shield ous fro the foul thing.—Amen.

Medulla Historiæ Anglicanæ.

Urban

Urban III. 1185. Gregory VIII. 1187. Clement III. 1188.

Emperors.

Of the East.—Emanuel Comnenus, 1143. Alexis Comnenus II. 1180. Andronicus Comnenus I. 1183. Isaac Angelus I. 1185.

Of the West.—Frederic I. 1152.

Kings.

Of France.—Lewis VII. 1157. Philip II. 1180.

Of Portugal.—Alphonsus, 1102. Sancho I. 1185.

Of Denmark.—Waldemar I. 1157; the regular succession and history of Denmark does not commence properly till the accession of Waldemar I. (called the Great,) who considerably enlarged and civilized the country.

Of Scotland.—David I. 1134. Malcolm IV. 1153. William 1165.

HENRY THE SECOND.

" With thee, PLANTAGENET, from civil broils
" The land awhile respired, and all was peace.
" Then BECKET rose, and impotent of mind,
" Bid murd'rous priests the sov'reign frown contemn,
" And, with unhallow'd crosier, bruised the crown.
" Yet yielded not supinely tame a prince
" Of Henry's virtues, learn'd, courageous, wise,
" Of fair ambition."

SHENSTONE.

" Still must that tongue some wounding message bring,
" And still thy priestly pride provoke thy King;
" For this are 'foreign oracles' explored,
" To teach the land to murmur at its lord."

Vide POPE's HOMER.

(FAIR ROSAMOND.)

" A maid unmatch'd in manners as in face,
" Skill'd in each art, and crown'd with ev'ry grace;
" Not half so dear were wedded 'Ellen's' charms,
" When first her blooming beauties met my arms."

IBIDEM.

" The tempest in my mind
" Doth from my senses take all feeling else,
" Save what beats there.—Filial ingratitude!"

SHAKESPEARE.

THROUGHOUT his day much sorrow HENRY prov'd,
Cross'd in his pow'r by those whom most he lov'd;
A constant

A constant warfare was his reign on earth,
By sons fomented, who disgraced their birth;
His Queen too, (tho' tis said much cause was hers
To doubt his faith, yet story often errs),
Join'd to oppose her husband and her lord,
And lift against his crown rebellion's sword!

BECKET, another curse of Henry's life,
Adds to the foes he found in sons and wife;
BECKET, the kingdom's bane, the popedom's glory,
With temper scarcely I relate the story,
A proof, since told ye in most homely fashion,
We can do nothing well, when in a passion.

A NEW LEGEND OF ST. THOMAS A BECKET.

King HENRY and the realm to spite,
St. DUNSTAN being dead and gone,
Some evil genius sent his sprite,
In BECKET's form, to curb the throne.

Archbishop, Chancellor, and more
Than I can say in these brief rhymes,
He gain'd all DUNSTAN gain'd before,
All WOLSEY got in after times.

And

And what return to HENRY made
This upstart, who deserv'd a rope?
Of dignity he form'd a trade,
And sold his master to the Pope!

Rebellion into exile sent
The meddling Monk, who yet return'd
More honour'd, tho' much less content,
While treason in his heart still burn'd.

Repeated insult HENRY drove
Some hint to drop in angry mood,*
Which caus'd, who heard their zeal to prove,
Unhappily, in BECKET's blood.

* "Is there not one of the crew of lazy, cowardly knights, "whom I maintain, that will rid me of this turbulent priest, "who came to court but t'other day on a lame horse, with no-"thing but his wallet behind him?" These words unfortunately animated to action Reginal Fitz-urse, William de Tracey, Hugh de Morvil, and Richard Brito.

BERINGTON's *Life of St. Thomas a Becket.*

The vulgar of Glocestershire have proverbially assigned a whimsical punishment for one of the families concerned in the assassination, thus:

"The Tracies,
"Have always the wind in their faces."

James Petit Andrews sportively adds, "No very severe judgment on a summer's day."

The

The King to penance keen and sore,
And public ignominious pain,
Submitted! ne'er was Prince before
So humble, nor is like to be again.

Had but the justice of the land,
For which too oft he'd given cause,
Struck BECKET with a legal hand,
Instead of shame the King had gain'd applause.*

IRELAND and WALES and SCOTLAND pay
Their homage to the King, whose prosp'rous day,

* His ill-bred haughtiness was such, that when the English prelates, in one body, represented to him the consequences which must inevitably attend his turbulent obstinacy, he answered only, "I hear you." Nothing could exceed his pride, or the splendor of his household. Before his advancement to the primacy he had been used to travel attended by two hundred knights and other gay domestics: eight waggons were in his suite, two of those bore his ale, three the furniture of his chapel, of his bed-chamber, and of his kitchen, and the other three carried provisions and necessaries. Twelve pack-horses bore his money, plate, &c. to each waggon was chained a fierce mastiff, and on each pack-horse there sat a baboon.

The following Epitaph, among others, was made on Becket:
Quis moritur? Præsul. Cur? Pro grege. Qualiter? Ense.
Quando? Natali. Quis locus? Ara dei.

Imitated by J. P. Andrews.

Who's slain? The Primate. How? In dire affray.
Why? For his flock. When? On his natal day.
Say where? 'Twas where we kneel to heaven and pray.

Shorten'd

Shorten'd by civil jars,
And most unnatural wars,
In unenjoy'd possession, dies away.

HENRY, his son, was by his father crown'd,
As England's King, an early death he found.*
JEFFERY and WILLIAM too, the latter died
A child,—the former fell in martial pride.
RICHARD and JOHN succeeded to the throne
In turn,—with shame the Muse makes known,
That Richard, who with Gallia's King took part,
His sire subduing, broke a parent's heart.

A story told of Woodstock bow'r, I wis,
I might be deem'd neglectful did I miss,
Whether correct, or but by fancy penn'd,
My humble tale your leisure doth attend.

* At this coronation, young Henry, on his father's humility being pointed out, arrogantly replied, "A great honour truly, "for the son of a King to be waited on by the son of an Earl!" At other times too, he requited his father's tenderness with most unfilial ingratitude, a sense of which, is said, at length to have broken his own heart. His body was carried towards Roan, but the clergy and citizens of Mans took it by force and interred it in their cathedral, near the Old Geoffry Plantagenet, whence it was ultimately taken and re-interred at Roan. King Henry, in allusion to the ingratitude of his sons, had an allegorical picture painted for his palace at Windsor, representing an old eagle, his young ones fighting with him, and one scarcely fledged striving to peck out his eyes; the last he used to say was JOHN, whom he loved best of all. GIRALDUS CAMBRENSIS.

ROSAMOND's BOWER.

A PARODY.

THE ARGUMENT.

" Henry the Second keepeth (with much care,)
" Lord Clifford's daughter, Rosamond the faire;
" And whilst his sonnes do Normandy invade
" He, forced to France, with wond'rous cost hath made
" A labyrinthe in Woodstocke, where unseene
" His love might lodge safe from his iealous queene."

DRAYTON.

I.

EMBOW'R'D sat a lover and lady so gay,
Where jas'mine with lilies were curl'd,
They gaz'd on each other with tender delight;
The warrior was HARRY PLANTAGENET hight,
And the lady the ROSE OF THE WORLD.

II.

Said the fair, " when you follow the drum and the fife,
" I shall wish by my side you had tarried,
" For as soon as you leave me your termagant wife,
" Will be certain to frighten me out of my life,"
For, I'm sorry to say, he was married.

Oh,

III.

" Oh, hush these suspicions," PLANTAGENET said,
" Offensive to ELLEN and me,
" For if she, by anger or jealousy led,
" Should alarm you, while I am abroad, by my head,
" Who's at home,* I shall soon let her see."

IV.

" Besides " cried the King, " can my beautiful rose
" Fear surprize in this intricate place?
" Where it answers no purpose to follow one's nose,
" Unless a silk clue, that you know of, disclose
" A road none could ever yet trace."

V.

They parted in sorrow; poor girl, she turn'd cold,
She ne'er felt so nervous before;
Nor yet many days had elaps'd, when, behold!
The Queen, with a reg'ment of troopers, so bold,
'Gan thunder at ROSAMOND'S door.

* The phrase of letting a person know " Who's at home," has (unless the custom is very much *out*,) since obtained considerably in domestic circles.

Their

VI.

Their swords on the porter the Grenadiers drew,
The poor man was sadly distrest;
The Queen tried a bribe, soon discover'd the clue,
And of poison so sable, or steel polish'd blue,
Ask'd Rosamond "which she liked best?"

VII.

The "Flow'r of the World" changed her "redolent" hue
To white, while she sank on her knee;
The tear on her cheek look'd like heaven-dropp'd dew,
When she said "If, dear ma'am, it's the same thing to you,
"Not either, I thank you, for me."

VIII.

Her majesty threaten'd, her victim complied,
She drank, and PLANTAGENET's power
The death* of his mistress reveng'd on his bride,

* Rosamond was buried at Godstow, and the following quaint Epitaph inscribed on her tomb.

Hic jacet in Tumba Rosa Mundi, non Rosamunda,
Non redolet, sed olet, quæ redolere solet.

Thus imitated by J. P. Andrews.

Here lies, not Rose the Chaste, but Rose the Fair,
Her scents no more perfume but taint the air.

And

And shut her, from that, to the day that she died,
Up three pair of stairs in a tow'r.

IX.

Should couples take warning from "Rosamond's Bow'r,"
Not vainly the Muse has harangued;
And, ladies, if rivals shou'd fall in your pow'r,
The Commons consult, or instead of the tow'r,
If you kill them, you're sure to be hang'd.

SUMMARY OF THE REIGN OF

RICHARD I. SURNAMED CŒUR DE LION.

Born, A. D. 1157. Began to reign, 1189. Was contracted to Alice, daughter of Louis VII. of France. Married Berengeria, daughter of Sancho VI. King of Navarre. Had no legitimate issue. Was killed, 1199, at the siege of a castle at Chalus, belonging to the Viscount of Linnges, by Bertrand Gourdon, a crossbowman, who, though pardoned by the King, was afterwards fleed alive. He reigned ten years, and was buried with his father at Font Evraud.

Principal Events.

Richard released his mother who had been confined sixteen years. Took an army of thirty-five thousand men to the Holy Land, where he greatly signalized himself against Saladin the Great, was imprisoned on his return, by Leopold, Duke of Austria, and purchased his ransom for one hundred thousand marks. Sterling money first coined, and so called from the *Easterlings*, a people of Germany, who first gave it currency from its purity. London divided into corporate companies. (*Medull. Hist. Ang.*)

Eminent Persons.

Hubert, Archbishop of Canterbury. Henry Fitzalwyn, first Lord Mayor of London, the city having been formerly governed by Portreeves. Philip and Isabel, natural children of the King. William Longchamp, Bishop of Ely, Regent in Richard's absence. Robin Hood and Little John, celebrated outlaws. Richard de Higel, Bishop of London, was the King's Apothecary, (the first we find mentioned.)

COTEMPORARY SOVEREIGNS.

Popes.

Clermont III. 1188. Celestine III. 1191. Innocent III. 1198.

Emperors.

Of the East.—Isaac II. 1185. Alexis III. 1195.

Of the West.—Frederick I. 1152. Henry VI. 1190. Philip I. 1197.

Kings.

Of France.—Philip II. 1180.

Of Portugal.—Sancho I. 1180.

Of Denmark.—Canute V. 1182.

Of Scotland.—William, 1165.

RICHARD CŒUR DE LION.

" Against whose fury and unmatch'd force
" The awless lion could not wage the fight,
" Nor keep his princely heart from Richard's hand."

SHAKESPEARE.

" When Richard Cœur de Lion reign'd,
" Which means a lion's heart."

SWIFT.

" Cœur de Lion loves the wars,
" Richard's joys are blows and scars,
" Conquer'd Pagans fly before him,
" Christian warriors all adore him."

OPERA OF RICHARD.

" Here the cowl'd zealots, with united cries,
" Urg'd the Crusade:—
" Of ten fair suns that roll'd their annual race
" Not one beheld him on his vacant throne:
" While haughty LONGCHAMP 'mid his livery'd files
" Of wanton vassals spoil'd his faithful realm.
" Battling in foreign fields; collecting wide
" A laurel harvest for a pillaged land."

SHENSTONE.

O, GALLANT Prince! who loved to roam,
When you had better stay'd at home;
Whose subjects at thy crowning slew
Many an unoffending Jew.

Who conquer'd Cyprus, which denied
A lodging to yourself and bride,
(For on his road to Holy Land,
He stopp'd to win a lady's hand,)
Who 'gainst the Turks flew in a passion,
Because just then it was the fashion.
With SALADIN* the sword wou'd try,
Without once ever asking why;
Who in each battle did the work,
Of cleaving Saracen† and Turk,
And kept the Infidels at bay,
While jealous PHILIP walk'd away!
Who, (for he was impertinent,)
Kick'd Austria from the royal tent,
(For so the tale appears to us, it
Being set down "*pede percussit*,")‡

Who

* Once, during this campaign, Richard was dangerously sick, and his disorder required fresh fruit and snow to render it cool: the generous Saladin sent both in profusion, and thus preserved the life of the only foe he dreaded.

VITA SALADINI.

† The Saracens so dreaded his name they would say to their restive horses, "What do you start at, do you think you see King "Richard?"

‡ To encourage the soldiers in repairing the ruined wall of Acre, (a spot which has since acquired such additional celebrity from the distinguished gallantry of Sir Sidney Smith and his brave

Who found, returning, to thy cost,
The mem'ry of that kick not lost,
And was by Austria's lads surrounded,
And 'till great ransom paid, impounded.
Or, as your Troubadour* folks tell,
Was fiddled out by one *Blondel*,

Fiddled

brave associates,) Cœur de Lion not only laboured in person, but appointed hours for other leaders to work at the head of their men. All chearfully obeyed, except the Duke of Austria, who sent word that his father having been neither bricklayer nor mason, he had not learned either business. The English King hearing this insolent speech repeated to his face by the haughty Duke, "cum pede percussit" Anglice kicked him out of his tent, and ordered his banner to be disgraced.

BROMPTON.

* King Richard was a passionate lover of poetry, and bears a rank among the Provencal Poets or Troubadours, who were the first of the modern Europeans that distinguished themselves by attempts of that nature.

HUME.

CRESCIMBINI, in his Commentary on the Lives of the Provencal Poets, says that Richard composed a sonnet which he sent to Princess Stephanetta, wife of Hugh de Baux, and other sonnets, while a prisoner, which he sent to Beatrix, Count of Provence; the whole of one the latter productions is given in the Catalogue of Royal Authors, one or two verses will be sufficient here to give an idea of the supposed softness of the Provencal dialect.

REIZ RIZARD.

JA nus hom pris non dira sa raison,
Adreitamout se com hom dolent non,
Mas per conort pot il faire chanson,
Pro adamis, mas povre son li don,

Fiddled or not (excuse me hyper-
Critics) Old England paid the piper.
Who made with Saladin a truce,
(As was the war) of little use.
Whose brother JOHN took arms, and then
You made him lay 'em down again.
Who beat King PHILIP out of measure,
And lost your life while seeking treasure.*

O, gallant Prince! such store of deeds
To tell, my pen must mending needs,
Therefore I only, valiant King,
Have set down what I *wish'd* to sing;

Onta j avron, se por ma Reezon,
Soi fai dos yver pris.
Or sachon ben mi hom e mi baron,
Engles, Norman, Pettavin & Gascon,
Que ge navoie si' povre compagnon,
Que laissasse por aver en preison,
Ge nol di pas, por nulla retraison,
Mas anquar soise pris.

* While besieging the Castle of Chalons, or Choley, where it was supposed a treasure lay concealed, which Richard claimed, and where "an Arbalaster standing upon the wall, and seeing his time, charged his steel bow with a square arrow, making first his prayer to God that he would direct that shot and deliver the innocency of the besieged from oppression, mortally wounded the King in the left shoulder: the anguish and peril whereof was extremely increased by the unskilfulness of the chirurgeon."

MEDULLA HISTORIÆ ANGLICANÆ.

For

For in thy reign, I'm told, a bard
Found it a subject keen and hard,
And much was forced his brain to tax,
Even to sing thy battle axe,
With all its murd'rous hews and hacks.
This version shall conclude my page,
And shew the genius of thy age.

SPECIMEN OF POETRY,

IN THE YEAR 1190.

KING RICHARD, I understonde,
When he went out of En-ge-londe;
Let make an axe, for the nones,
To break therewith the Sarasyns bones.
The head thereof was wrought full weel,
Therein was twenty pounds of steele;
And when he came to Cyprus londe,
This axe taketh he in honde,
The Griffons* fast away they rapp'd
All that he hit, he also frapp'd.†
And the prison when he came to,
With his axe he smote right thro'
Dores, barres, and iron chaynes!

WARTON.

* Griffons.—Heathens.
† Frapp'd.—Knocked down.

SUMMARY OF THE REIGN OF

JOHN,

SURNAMED

SANS TERRE, OR LACKLAND.

Born in London, A. D. 1166. Crowned at Westminster, 1199. Married thrice, first to Alice, daughter of Hugh, Earl Morton; next to Avisa, heiress of Glocester, whom he repudiated, and married Isabella, daughter to Aimar, Earl of Angouleme; he had issue only by his third wife, viz. Henry, his successor; Richard, Earl of Cornwall, and King of the Romans; Joan,* espoused Alexander II. of Scotland; Isabella, consort to the Emperor Frederick II.; and Eleanor, married first to William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, and afterwards to Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester. He left also six natural children. He reigned seventeen years and a half. Died in 1216, and was buried at Worcester.

Principal Events.

Wars with France. The King of Scotland pays homage at Lincoln. Quarrels with the Pope, manly resistance and subsequent mean submission of the King to the See of Rome. The King and kingdom excommunicated. The French fleet destroyed. A revolt of the Barons, and the signature of Magna Charta. London-bridge first built of stone.

Eminent Persons.

Prince Arthur, nephew to and supposed to be murdered by the King. Gerald Barry, better known as Giraldus Cambrensis. Gervase, of Canterbury, and Ralph de Dreese,

* This amiable Princess was styled Joan Makepeace for her constant and successful endeavours to keep England and Scotland in amity.

celebrated

celebrated writers and historians. Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury, divided our Bible into chapters and verses. The Earl of Salisbury, who defeated the French fleet. Robert Fitzwalter, chosen General of the Baron's army. John de Courcy, Earl of Ulster, famous for his strength and prowess. Fitzpeter, great justiciary of England.

COTEMPORARY SOVEREIGNS.

Popes.

Innocent III. 1198. Honorius III. 1215.

Emperors.

Of the East.—Alexis III. 1195. Alexis IV. 1203. Alexis V. 1204. Theodore I. 1205.

Of the West.—Philip, 1197. Otho IV. 1208. Frederick II. 1211.

Kings.

Of France.—Philip II. 1180.

Of Portugal.—Sancho I. 1185. Alphonsus II. 1212.

Of Denmark.—Waldemar II. 1202.

Of Scotland.—William, 1165. Alexander II. 1214.

JOHN.

" When England's ancient Barons, clad in arms,
" And stern with conquest from their tyrant King
" (Now render'd tame) did challenge and secure
" The charter of thy freedom." AKENSIDE.

" When faithless JOHN usurp'd the sully'd crown,
" What ample tyranny! Six tedious years
" Our helpless fathers in despair obey'd
" The Papal interdict; and who obey'd
" The Sov'reign plunder'd." SHENSTONE.

" Throw thine eye
" On yon young boy.—I'll tell thee what, my friend,
" He is a very serpent in my way,
" And wheresoe'er this foot of mine doth tread
" He lies before me." SHAKESPEARE.

" No Italian Priest
" Shall tithe or toll in our dominions;
" But, as we, under heav'n are supreme head,
" So under him, that great supremacy,
" Where we do reign, we will alone uphold.
" So tell the Pope; all reverence set apart
" To him, and his usurp'd authority." IBIDEM.

K. JOHN. " Thus have I yielded up into your hands
" The circle of my glory."
PANDULPH. " Take again,
" From this my hand, as holding of the Pope
" Your sovereign greatness and authority."
SHAKESPEARE.

AT length a dawn of freedom 'gins to streak
The gloomy horizon! and Lackland's reign,

Most

Most inauspiciously begun, concludes
With privilege for which our fathers fought,
Knee-deep in slaughter; and, to which their sons,
True to each other, ever will adhere.

Success but seldom blest the claim of right
In days when strength and skill too frequent won
The regal circle; else had ARTHUR's name,
With supercession legal, graced the roll
Where JOHN's is now recorded—but what *is*,
We're told is *right*.—Had ARTHUR, haply, reign'd
His milder sway had fail'd create the cause
Which did the glorious great effects produce,
Of England's freedom, and of England's rights.
As if too conscious of his tottering claim,
And, that his crown sat lightly on his head,
Four times inaugurated was the King.

PHILIP of France, whose envy ne'er cou'd bend
The warlike mind of RICHARD, now declares
Against the title of his brother JOHN,
And in behalf of ARTHUR, claims the throne.

ARTHUR!

Arthur! unfortunate! thy seat usurp'd
By an ambitious uncle, and thy right
Made, by pretended friendship, but a plea,
To sanctify it's interested views!

The English Barons murmur and deny
Their aid to John, who yet o'ercomes his foes;
And Arthur, captive, youthful, innocent,
Nor author of the war that Phillip wag'd,
Dies in imprisonment.—By some we read,
And our great Bard, with magic minstrelsy,
Has sung the tale, that from his prison walls,
Attempting hopeless egress, he was dash'd
Against the earth below, and found, alas!
The spirit of his uncle "in those flints
With which 'twas bedded."* Other stories tell
That murder, (that so frequent blot upon
Our English reigns, related, and to come,)

* Argentre, in his "Histoire de Bretagne," says that, John came late one evening, and took his nephew out of prison; that he rode with him to a cliff that overhung the sea; that there he stabb'd him, and drawing his body by the heels to the brink of the precipice, threw it into the ocean.

With

With circumstantial cruelty, depriv'd
The Prince of life.*
PHILIP of France, on this pretext, proclaim'd
King JOHN a traitor and a murderer;
Seiz'd on his French possessions, while the POPE
In all concurring, and, pretending right
To chuse our Church Directors, JOHN defies
(The sole good deed he did) the pow'r of Rome;
The Vatican, with thunder loud, replies;
And England excommunicate, cut off
From ev'ry human privilege, cou'd still,
Firm in herself, have scorn'd th' unblest decree,
Which dared to arrogate an awful right
By heaven's almighty power alone possess'd.

* "Fair Eleanora! ‡ wou'd no gallant mind
"The cause of love, the cause of justice own,
"Matchless thy charms, and was no life resign'd,
"To see them sparkle on their native throne?
"Oh, shame of Britons! in one sullen tow'r
"She wet with royal tears her daily cell,
"She found keen anguish ev'ry rose devour,
"They sprung, they rose, they faded, and they fell.
SHENSTONE.

‡ ELEANOR, of BRETAGNE, the lawful heiress of the English Crown upon the death of Arthur,—esteem'd the beauty of her time, she died in Bristol Castle, after suffering forty years imprisonment.

At

At length with meanness equal to his pride,
For pride and meanness are concomitant,
The land, the people, King, the crown itself,
Are pros'trate thrown beneath the Pontiff's feet;
The BARONS feel just anger, and disdain
To serve a Prince who owns himself a slave.

And soon, of filaments from this disgrace
And other grievances, most justly drawn,
Was MAGNA CHARTA woven, and the King
After subscription tried too oft to break
The golden compact, which has since upheld
Our legal title as a PEOPLE FREE.*

Winding

* The following short sketch of what the people gained by Magna Charta, is an abridgement from Hume, by the ingenious James Petit Andrews.

"Immunities granted to Barons, are extended to their vassals."

"No Baron to levy money from his vassals, except for attending the King to war, repairing his castles, and the highways and bridges."

"Measures to be equal through the realm."

"Merchants not to be illegally taxed."

"Free egress, and regress to Freemen."

"Cities to preserve their privileges, and only to be taxed by Parliament."

"Bridges to be equitably built or supported."

"Freemen to dispose of goods by will, or, if intestate, their next heir to succeed."

"The King's Purveyor not to sieze goods, &c."

"Courts

Winding beneath the earth, a spacious range
Of subterranean chambers yet is seen,*
Where first, in secresy, the Barons met
To frame the code of Freedom.—Short the space
From hence to where my humble cot is hid,
By wild sequester'd scenery, and oft,
Bending my footsteps downwards, do I seek
The rock-hewn seats that round the cave remain,
And muse with awfully-delighted mind,
While witchery of fancy brings to view
Majestic forms, and men of other times;
Those aged peers whose venerable locks
A crested helm, the terror oft of France,
Concealed in iron bands,—those youthful lords,

"Courts of Justice not to follow the King, but to be statio-
"nary, open, and equal to all men."

"Justice not to be paid for, nor refused to any one, (this was
"a necessary proviso in a realm where bribes were received by the
"King to a great amount, and shamelessly set down in books
"kept for that purpose,) Sheriffs not to put any one on trial with-
"out good cause and lawful witnesses."

"No Freeman to be in any way injured in person or goods,
"except by the law of the land. [Query,—would that be an injury,
"D.] Redress to be given to those who have suffered illegally.
"No extravagant fines to be levied on Freemen. No villain, i. e.
"rustic, to be deprived of his cart or other instruments of hus-
"bandry by fine."

* At Reigate, in Surrey, it is still called "The Baron's Cave."

Who

Who proud of martial splendour, shone in arms,
Which, back reflecting ev'ry torch's blaze,
With double light the sacred vault illumed.

There mitred LANGTON, with FITZWALTER brave,
CLARE, ALBERMARLE, and GLOSTER, HEREFORD,
MOWBRAY, and OXFORD, DELAVAL, and SAY,
NORFOLK, DE ROS, and bands of heroes more,
Retired to fan the patriotic fire,
Which bursting into day at RUNNIMEDE,
With rays of glory lighten'd all the land.

The King's bad faith the civil wars renew'd,
And LEWIS, son of France, call'd in, was own'd
As England's master: but the patriot lords,
Ill brooking Gallic rule, to JOHN restored
His regal state, short time by him enjoy'd.
At Newark Castle (not at Swinestead, where
Our legendaries tell a fearful tale
Of monks and poison,) JOHN respired his last.*

* The story of John's being poisoned at Swinestead Abbey is of a late date, and deserves no credit.

ANDERSON.

END OF PART THE FOURTH.

ENGLAND.

PART THE FIFTH.

From the Signature of Magna Charta to the Death of Edward the Second.

CONTENTS.

Henry III.—*Edward* I. *Llewellyn, Prince of Wales—David of Scotland—Baliol—Bruce—Wallace—Edward* II. *his Deposition and Death.*

SUMMARY OF THE REIGN OF

HENRY III. SURNAMED OF WINCHESTER.

Born at Winchester, A. D. 1206-7. Crowned at Gloucester, October, 1216. Married Eleanor, daughter of Raymond of Provence. Had issue, Edward, who succeeded him; Edmund, Earl of Lancaster, and nominal King of Sicily; Margaret, married to Alexander III. of Scotland; Beatrice, espoused to John de Dreux, Duke of Bretagne; and five others who died in their infancy. Henry reigned fifty-six years. Died, and was buried at Westminster, 1272.

Principal Events.

The Dauphin expelled by Pembroke, the Lord Protector. Barons conspire against the King. The first (so named) Parliament called, to which Knights and Burgesses were summoned. The King and Family made prisoners at the battle of Lewes. Prince Edward escapes. Battle of Evesham.

Eminent Persons.

Richard Magnus, Edmund of Abingdon, Boniface, and Robert Kilwarby, Archbishops of Canterbury. Des Moches, Bishop of Winchester, and Lord Chancellor. Bishop of Valence, brother to the Queen. Earl of Pembroke, Protector. Montfort, Earl of Leicester; General of the Barons. Richard Clare, and Gilbert, his sons, Earls of Glocester.

Cotemporary Sovereigns.

Popes.

Honorius III. A. D. 1216. Gregory IX. 1227. Cælestine IV. 1241. Innocent IV. 1243. Alexander IV. 1254. Urban IV. 1261. Clement IV. 1265. Gregory X. 1271.

Emperors.

Emperors.

Of the East.—Theodore I. 1204. John III. 1222. Theodore II. 1225. John IV. 1259. Michael VIII. 1259.

Of the West.—Frederick II. 1211.

Kings.

Of France.—Philip II. 1180. Louis VIII. 1223. St. Louis IX. 1226. Philip III. 1270.

Of Portugal.—Alphonsus II. 1212. Sancho II. 1233. Alphonsus III. 1247.

Of Denmark.—Waldemar II. 1202. Eric VI. 1240. Abel I. 1250. Christopher I. 1252. Eric VIII. 1259.

Of Sweden.—Waldemar, 1250.

Of Scotland.—Alexander II. 1214. Alexander III. 1249.

HENRY THE THIRD.

" The sequent reign beheld the beggar'd shore
" Grim with Italian usurers, prepared
" To lend, for griping unexampled hire
" To lend, what Rome might pillage uncontroll'd

SHENSTONE.

" Les hommes plus estimables sont encore hommes, et " montrent encore quelques restes des foiblesses de l'huma- " nité parmi les pieges innombrables & les embarras insé- " perables de la Royauté.—Tel Critique aujourd'hui im- " pitoyablement les Rois, qui gouvernoroit demain moins " bien qu'eux, & qui feroit les memes fautés avec d'autres " infiniment plus grandes, si on lui confisit la meme puis- " sance."

FENELON.

" Mercy,
" Is mightiest in the mightiest! it becomes
" The throned monarch better than his crown;
" It is an attribute to GOD himself,
" And earthly power doth then shew likest God's,
" When mercy seasons justice!"

SHAKESPEARE.

HOWE'ER historians may our HENRY blame,
Mercy was ever blended with his name,
Nor should his foibles in our memory live,
Who knew his worst opposers to forgive;
Humane, indulgent, (haply to a fault,)
Tho' wanting energy when cares assault,

HENRY

HENRY of WINCHESTER, an instance brings,
Of "Mercy throned in the hearts of Kings."

Eleven years, no more, the Prince had known,
When PEMBROKE's aid secured him England's throne:
The gallant Regent, Lord of Lincoln fight,
Asserted HENRY's, and the kingdom's right;
Compell'd French Louis to depart the land,
And held 'till death, the reins with equal hand.

HUBERT de BURGH and WINCHESTER combined,
Rule Albion, one in pow'r, but two in mind;
Each Regent disapproves the other's act,
And jarring counsels the young Prince distract:
The Prelate WINCHESTER is first displaced,
Restored, and HUBERT in his turn disgraced.
Successless war with France the state alarms,
And a new PEMBROKE* calls the land to arms;
Against the King, his rebel sword he tries,
Fortune first smiles, deserts him, and he dies;

* Son of the late Regent; he afterwards died miserably through the artifices of the Bishop of Winchester, who was himself quickly disgraced by the new Archbishop of Canterbury. LOCKMAN.

And

And, WINCHESTER a second time expell'd,
The people's discontents are somewhat quell'd.

Not long in quiet did the realm remain,
The flames of evil warfare rage again;
The Sov'reign, whether wisely, or misled,
Fair ELEANOR of Provence having wed,
The Barons, jealous of her former friends,
Relume the brand, which far and wide extends;
SIMON DE MONTFORT, Earl of Leicester, heads
The martial Nobles, and their army leads;
Aw'd by their active union, HENRY signs
The Oxford statutes, and his pow'r resigns
To a Conservative Commission; framed
One half by him, the rest the Barons named;
Again, ill reconciled, the crown and Peers
Are foes, and Civil Broil her standard rears
At LEWES; HENRY and each haughty Lord
"Refer decision to the sharpest sword."
The King, his brother, son, and nephew, ta'en,
Submit to MONTFORT, and his Barons reign;
We know not if the *end* what *means* they tried
May sanction, but it cannot be denied,
To LEICESTER and his friends, our nation owes
The source whence all her independence flows,

The

The COMMONS' SENATE, and the PEOPLE'S VOICE.
Long may it's fabric rest upon their choice,
And by it's FREEDOM tell the nations round,
SAFETY alone with LIBERTY is found.
The fate of war, capricious, now ordains
That EDWARD, HENRY's son, shall break his chains;
A third intestine feud at E'sham vale,
Sees MONTFORT fall, and HENRY's son prevail;
Young LEICESTER's and DE GOURDON's prompt defeat,
And GLOUCESTER's fall, submission now compleat
The fame of EDWARD; and his father's life
Closes unchecquer'd by succeeding strife;
Yet not a Chief of those subdued,
With blood the vengeful axe imbued;
Nor scarce a subject died, as records tell,
Save those who in the sanguine contest fell.

The kingdom in peace, we're by chronicles told,
With the fame that young EDWARD acquired
"To Palestine hasten'd the hero so bold,"
In whose absence King HENRY expired.

And

And thus the longest reign in Britain ended—
The *present* cou'd our warmth of wish extend it
In length, as glory should exceed it far,
And peace, and plenty, cure the ills of war.
These times, 'tis said, old MATHEW PARIS graced,
Among respectable historians placed,
And those who love worn out poetic lays,
May read two specimens of HENRY's days.

Robert of Glocestere, his Character of English Towns.

" In the countrie of Canterburie plenty of fish is;
" And most chase of wild beasts about Salsbrie, I wis, is;
" At London, ships most; and wine at Winchestere;
" At Hartford, sheepe and oxe; and fruit at Worcestere;
" Sope, about Coventry; iron, at Glocestere;
" Metals, lead and tyn, in the countrie of Excestere;
" Evorwick, for fairest wood; Lincolne for fairest men, &c. &c."

Part

Part of a Ballad on Richard of Cornwell, King of the Romans,—written 1255.

RICHARD of Alemayne, while he was King,
He spende alle his tresour upon swyving,
Haveth he nought of Wallingford oferling?
Let him have, as he brew, bale to drying.
Maugre Wyndesore.

By God that is above us, he deede much sin,
That let passen over see th' Erl of Warynne,
He hath robb'd Englonde, the mores and the fenne,
The gold and the silver, and y beren henne.*
For love of Wyndesore.

Sir Simon de Montfort hath sworn by ys chyn
Hevede† he now here the Erl of Warynne,
Shulde he never more come to ys inn,
Ne with shelde, ne with spere, ne with other gyn,
To help of Wyndesore.

* Bore it hence.

† Hevede, is had.

Sir

Sir Simon de Montfort hath sworn by ys fot,
Hevede he now here Sire Hue de Bigot,
Ah! he shulde grant here twelf moneth scot,
Shulde he never more, with his sot pot,
To helpe Wyndesore.

RELIQUES OF ENGLISH POETRY.

SUMMARY OF THE REIGN OF

EDWARD I. SURNAMED LONGSHANKS.

Born at Westminster, June, 1239. Began to reign, 1272. Married twice, first to Eleanor, daughter of Ferdinand III. King of Castile, by whom he had issue, John, Henry, and Alphonsus, who died young; Edward, his successor; Eleanor, married to Henry, Duke de Bur; Joan, to Gilbert Clare, Earl of Glocester, and afterwards to Robert de Monthermer; Margaret, to John, Duke of Brabant; Elizabeth, to John, Earl of Holland, and afterwards to Humphrey Bohun, Earl of Hereford; Berenguella, Alice, Blanche, and Beatrice, died unmarried. King Edward's second wife was Margaret of France, by whom he had Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, and Earl Marshal of England; Edmund, Earl of Kent; and Eleanor, died in infancy. He reigned near thirty-five years. His body was buried at Westminster, his heart in the Holy Land.

Principal Events.

Conquest of Wales. Jews expelled from England. Edward chosen umpire of the Scots, acts unfairly. Scotland greatly defended by Sir William Wallace, who, however, is taken and shamefully put to death. Courts of King's Bench and Common Pleas put on their present establishment. Parliaments more regularly called. Westminster Abbey finished.

Eminent Persons.

John Peckham, Robert Winchelsea, Walter Reynold, and John Stratford, Archbishops of Canterbury. Richard, Earl of Cornwall. Roger Bigod, Earl of Norfolk. Humphrey Bohun, Earl of Hereford. John Plantagenet, Earl of Warren. Roger Bacon. Wickliffe.

COTEMPORARY SOVEREIGNS.

Popes.

Gregory X. 1271. Innocent V. 1276. Adrian V. 1276. John XXI. 1276. Nicholas III. 1277. Martin IV. 1281. Honorius IV. 1285. Nicholas IV. 1288. Cœlestine V. 1294. Boniface VIII. 1294. Benedict IX. 1303. Clement V. 1305.

Emperors.

Of the East.—Michael VIII. 1259. Andronicus II. 1283.
Of the West.—Frederick II. 1202.* Rodolphus I. 1273. Adolphus of Nassau, 1291. Albert, 1298.

Kings.

Of France.—Philip III. 1270. Philip IV. 1285.
Of Portugal.—Alphonsus III. 1247. Dennis, 1275.
Of Denmark.—Eric VII. 1259. Eric VIII. 1286.
Of Sweden.—Magnus II. 1279. Birger II. 1290.
Of Scotland.—Alexander III. 1249. John Baliol, 1293. Robert Bruce, 1306.

* After the death of Frederick, there was an interregnum in the empire until Rodolphus; during which the following Princes either reigned, or were elected: Conrad III. William, Earl of Holland. Richard, Earl of Cornwall. Edward IV. and Alphonso, King of Castile.

LOCKMAN.

EDWARD

EDWARD THE FIRST.

" Facta mea, non dicta, vos, Milites, sequi volo; nec " disciplinam modo, sed Exemplum etiam á me petere."

LIVY, Book vii.

" Helm, nor hanberk, twisted mail,
" Nor e'en thy virtues, tyrant, shall avail
" To save thy secret soul from nightly fears,
" From Cambria's curse, from Cambria's tears.
" Such were the sounds that o'er the crested pride
" Of the first Edward, scatter'd wild dismay,
" As down the steps of Snowdon's craggy side
" He wound with toil, and march'd his long array.
" Stout Glo'ster stood aghast in speechless trance,
" To arms! cried Mortimer, and couched his quiv'ring lance."

GRAY.

" Oh! I am come from the Holy Land,
" Where saints did live and die,
" Where with valiant might
" Do the Christians fight,
" And have won the victory."

GLEE OF THE RED CROSS KNIGHTS.

The red cross flies in Holy Land,
The Saracen his crescent waves,
And English EDWARD's gallant band
Seek proud renown, or glorious graves!

Yet

Yet *true* religion sure they slight
Who deem that worship pure and good
Which offers, reeking from the fight,
Hands deeply dipp'd in human blood!

Surely of life the living Lord
For sinners would have died in vain;
Did his lov'd cause require the sword
Its peaceful doctrine to maintain?

Yet so it was, and 'tis so still,
Mistaken impulse wooes the strife,
Proud to be conquer'd, as to kill,
So she but shews contempt of life.

No matter whose, or what, the cause
For which the front of death we face;
If fashion bids us court applause
To hesitate were foul disgrace.

EDWARD to aid the sire he loved,
Where British Chiefs with Britons met,
His manly hardihood had proved,
Yet deem'd his *honour* still in debt.

That

That Pagan proselytes might yield
To war's sharp arguments, he fought
Till, from his prowess in the field
They fled, and treach'rous vengeance sought.

A Zealot rear'd the poison'd knife,
Nor less a Zealot had he slain,
But to the Prince he yields his life,
And love's sweet lips the venom drain.*

Returning, while on Cyprus shore,
Heralds the solemn tidings bring,
That EDWARD's father is no more,†
And EDWARD's self is Albion's King.

Now burst his daring passion forth,
And clarions loud proclaim afar,

* Eleanor of Castile, consort to the Prince, is said, at the imminent hazard of her own life, to have preserved that of her husband, by extracting the poison with her lips.

† He received at the same time intelligence of his son's death, a boy six years of age, which he received with resignation; but appeared extremely afflicted at the death of his father: some surprise being expressed at this, he observed, the loss of a son he might hope to replace; but that of a father was irreparable.

ANDREWS, &c.

To

To east, and west, to south, and north,
That EDWARD lives but in the war.

And first LLEWELLYN's native land,
Where dwelt the genuine British race,
Is doom'd to prove stern EDWARD's hand,
And feel oppression's iron mace.

Mark! the blood in torrents streaming,
Helm, and shield, and faulchion ring,
Lightning from each buckler beaming.
Hark! the bards indignant sing,
(Flames around their harp-strings gleaming,)
"Ruin seize thee, ruthless King!"*

To war's keen sword behold sweet peace succeed,
And Wallia for an instant ceas'd to bleed;
Short was the time the olive branch prevail'd,
LLEWELLYN, stirr'd by DAVID's honest pride,
Renew'd the strife of nations! fought and fail'd,
And graced the felon block on which he died;

* Gray.

It is but justice to observe, that the tale of Edward's cruelty to the Welch Bards is much disputed. Andrews says, "It has "little authority on its side, except an obscure tradition, and a "hint in the Gwydir MS."

Next DAVID on the scaffold yields his breath,
And EDWARD's laurels wither in their death.

His Queen the politic usurper sends
  Caernarvon with a royal birth to grace;
And compliments his new made Cambrian friends
  With a Welch sovereign of English race.*

Next, SCOTIA, thou wert doom'd to know
EDWARD a fierce and cruel foe.

BALIOL and BRUCE from civil feud,
  Appeal to England to award,
Whose title was "maist faire, and gude,"
  To reign as Caledonia's Lord;
And EDWARD's *arbitrary arbitration*
To BALIOL decrees the Scottish nation,
Provided to the English Monarch's throne
The King so named does homage for his own;
BALIOL with this, at first, complies,
Then, blushing for his bargain, from it flies,

* Edward the Second, born at Caernarvon Castle. The Welch had promised, it is said, to be satisfied with a native prince, who could not speak a word of English, and this *ruse* of Edward's perfectly succeeded.—*Vide* The Chapter of Welch Princes at the end of this reign.

And, EDWARD being then at war with France,*
'Gainst England BALIOL ventures to advance;
But England made a sudden truce
With France, and gain'd the aid of BRUCE,†
Who sided with the English band,
And luckless BALIOL lost his land.‡

And SCOTIA too had bow'd her down
For ever to the English crown,

* Edward was delighted when Baliol, by refusing to go and pay homage, gave him pretence to subdue Scotland. "Ha," said he, "Le fol felon tal folie fait! S'il ne voulut venir à nous, nous "viendrons a lui."—"Is he then so great a fool! Well, if he will "not come to me, I must e'en go to him."

FORDUN.

† The wife of Bruce, while at the English court, had the following odd attendant allowed her: "a footboy, sober, and not "riotous, to make her bed."

RYMER'S FÆDERA.

She had also three men and three women servants, three greyhounds, plenty of fish and game, and the fairest house in the manor.

J. P. ANDREWS.

‡ At the battle of Dunbar, where Baliol was taken prisoner, and Edward became possessed of the national regalia, together with the fatal stone, on which was engraven,

Ni fallat fatum, Scoti quocunque locatum,
Invenient Lapidem, Regnare tenentiur ibidem.

Anglice.

Or fate's deceived, and heav'n decrees in vain,
Or where they find this stone, the Scots shall reign."

CAMB-WALS.

But

But WALLACE, far-famed WALLACE, rose,
The terror of invading foes.

"Scots wha hae wi WALLACE bled,"
Cou'd ye my feeble muse inspire,
With soul of feeling, and of fire,
To sing the good, the valiant dead!
Whose patriot aims by men of birth,
(Poor substitute for genuine worth),
Were meanly thwarted, cool'd, and crost,
Till what his talents gain'd their envy lost;
Who after many a hard fought field,
Where English chiefs were fain to yield,
In FALKIRK's long remember'd fight,
(His band preferring death to flight,)
When left alone to stem the day,
Still kept his enemies at bay,
And from his native shelt'ring rocks,
Awhile fierce EDWARD's fury mocks;
Till Fortune, fickle, worthless, blind,
The patriot to his foe resign'd,
The savage foe by honour unconfin'd,
Again bids "hangman's hands" pollute the brave,
And dooms an HERO to a Traitor's grave.

COMYN next leads the plaided warriors on,
And STIRLING battle is by England won;
Still are the SCOTS determin'd to oppose,
And treat intruding EDWARD's friends as foes.
Till the revengeful King in proud array,
*Swears to make Scotland bend beneath his sway;
Or to exterminate the hardy race,
Who greatly scorn'd to give invasion place:
But Heaven, in all its dispensations just,
Levell'd the haughty monarch with the dust.
Thus LONGSHANKS fell, and thus did he bequeath,
His hate to Scotia with is dying breath.
"EDWARD, my gallant son," the monarch cried,
"Carry my bones AGAINST the Scots," and died.*

In this reign WICKLIFFE lived, and ROGER BACON:
One preach'd reform, Rome thunder'd, he preach'd louder;

* He called the God of MERCY (a most ill-applied attribute) to witness that he would utterly exterminate the Scotch revolters, which oath was rendered more solemn (according to the strange romantic turn of the age) by the presence of two milk white swans with trappings of gold, which were brought into Westminster-abbey on this occasion, and had their part in the sacred rites of the day.

SPEED.

The

The second, or historians are mistaken,
From nitre found the way to make gunpowder;
But BACON was of fellow men a lover,
Nor would the death-fraught recipe discover:
Some manuscripts, he left behind, reveal'd
What his humanity had kept conceal'd.

That poetry in progress was but slow,
These lines of "Adam Davie," serve to show,
(Adam was Marshall styled of Stratford Bow).

"To our Lord Jhesu Christe in heaven,
"I, to-day, shew mine swyven ;*
"That ich motte,† in one nycht,
"Of a knyghte of mýche mycht,
"His name is yhole, ‡ Syr Edward the Kyng,
"Prince of Wales, Engelonde, the fair thynge.
"Me motte that he was armed well,
"Both with yrne and with stele;
"And on his helm that was of stele,
"A coroune of gold becomen him wele;
"Before the shryne of St. Edward he stood,
"Myd glad cheere, and mylde of mood."

* Dream. † Dreamed. ‡ Called.

As

As the Title of PRINCE of WALES has from this period been given to the eldest sons of the Kings of England, it may not be intrusive to insert here a brief but correct Chronology of the Princes of Wales, from CADWALLADER, which was written by the Author of this Work some years ago, at Caermarthen, and frequently sung to the air of Collins's "Chapter of Kings."

The Chapter of Welch Princes.

I.

When CADWALLADER, tired of staying at home,
Was bit by the Monks, and retired to Rome,
Prince IVOR reign'd next, of his subjects the hope,
Till he too went over to visit the Pope;
Yet barring all pother,
Of this, that, or t'other,
All came to be Princes in turn.

II.

Then RODERICK the first govern'd Cambrian land,
And after him CONAN took sceptre in hand;

Next

Next MERFYN, the valiant, who perish'd in fight,
When ROD'RICK the Great became Britain's delight.
Yet barring, &c.

III.

Sanguine and brief was Prince ANARAUD's reign,
Till in battle himself and his son were both slain;
(Most reigns at this period with discord were curst,)
Next EDWAL succeeded, then HOWEL the first.
Yet barring, &c.

IV.

IAGO and IEVAF together bore sway,
Who six hundred wolves' heads to England did pay,
Brave HOWEL the second in war met his death;
And a brother deprived poor CADWALHAN of breath.
Yet barring, &c.

V.

Prince MERIDITH died of a broken heart,
EDWAL the second by SWEYNO's dart;

ÆDAN

ÆDAN in battle too finish'd his race,
And LLEWELLYN by traitors who wanted his place.
Yet barring, &c.

VI.

IAGO the second by treachery fell,
As did GRYFFYD the first, tho' he reign'd long and well;
And BLETHYN AP CONFYN, was murder'd too,
By TRAHAERN, whom GRYFFYD in battle slew.
Thus barring, &c.

VII.

Good GRYFFYD the second ruled many bright years,
And his tomb was bedew'd by a whole nation's tears;
He by OWEN was follow'd his offspring and heir;
Next DAVID succeeding, was hurl'd from the chair.
For barring, &c.

VIII.

LLEWELLYN the second, so good and so great,
To DAVID the second bequeathed his state;

LLEWELLYN

LLEWELLYN the third, like a hero did reign,
Till by EDWARD of England he basely was slain.
Yet barring, &c.

IX.

CAERNARVON gave birth to the next British Prince,
And England's first-born have been Sov'reigns since;
While loyal, affectionate, hardy, and free,
The Welch have remain'd, and for aye may they be.
And CAMBRIA united see all of her Princes
Come safe to be Kings in their turn.

SUMMARY OF THE REIGN OF

EDWARD II.

SURNAMED

OF CAERNARVON.

Born at Caernarvon, April 25th, 1284. Crowned at Westminster, February 23d, 1307. Married Isabel, daughter of Philip le Bel, of France, in the church of Our Lady at Bologne, January 28th, 1307, by whom he had issue, Edward, his successor; John, of Eltham, who died in the flower of his youth; Joan, married to David, King of Scotland; and Eleanor, to Reynold, Duke de Guelders. Edward reigned near twenty years, was cruelly murdered in Berkley Castle, and buried at Gloucester, A. D. 1327.

Principal Events.

Civil wars with the Barons on account of the King's attachment to his minions. The Queen joins against her husband, who is eventually deposed.

Eminent Persons.

John Offord, Archbishop of Canterbury. Thomas Plantagenet, Earl of Lancaster. Roger, Lord Mortimer; Piers Gaveston, and the two Spencers, favourites of the King.

Cotemporary Sovereigns.

Popes.

Clement V. 1305. John XXII. 1316.

Emperors.

Of the East.—Andronicus II. 1283. Andronicus III. 1320.
Of the West.—Albert I. 1298. Henry VIII. 1304. Lewis IV. 1314.

Kings.

Kings.

Of France.—Philip IV. 1285. Louis X. 1314. Philip V. 1316. Charles IV. 1322.

Of Portugal.—Dennis, 1272. Alphonsus IV. 1325.

Of Denmark.—Eric VIII. 1286. Christopher II. 1319.

Of Sweden.—Birger II. 1290. Magnus III. 1320.

Of Scotland.—Robert Bruce, 1306.

EDWARD THE SECOND.

" Now, lighter humour, leave me and begone,
" Your passion poor yields matter much too slight:
" To write these plagues that then were coming on,
" Doth ask a pen of Ebon, and the night;
" If there be ghosts their murder that bemoane,
" Let them approach me, and in piteous plight,
" Howle, and about me with black tapers stand,
" To lend a sad light to my sadder hand."

DRAYTON.

To illustrate his character, let us view his common amusements from an old French MS. of his private expences:—

ITEM.—Paye a Jak de scint Albon, peyntre de Roi, qui daunsa devant le Roi sur une table, et lui fist grandement rire, &c.

The extract is long, and not easily understood from the obsoleteness of the language; but, it proves that the King played at tossing up " heads and tails" for farthings, besides rewarding the above-mentioned buffoon for making him laugh by dancing on a table; he remunerated another for tumbling off a horse before him. Moreover that he made a party on the water in a returned faggot barge, and bought cabbages of the gardeners on the banks of the Thames to compose his soup.

ANCIENT RELICS.

" SAD was the hour, and luckless was the day,"
When second EDWARD claim'd the regal sway;

A reign

A reign of imbecility and care,
A life of terror closed in sad despair.
A scene unchanged of fierce, domestic jars,
Rebellion, tyranny, and civil wars,
Mark'd the whole period of a monarch's rule,
Who knew not how to learn in sorrow's school.
Adversity should prove a wholesome friend,
And past experience teach us how to mend;
But who of mild correction takes no heed,
Lost to reflection, must be lost indeed!

Could turn of face or majesty of form,
Shield from misfortune's overwhelming tide,
EDWARD had weather'd the relentless storm,
Nor under pangs unprecedented died.

The eye of beauty beams with dazz'ling light,
Yet brighter far the lustre of the mind:
And dark and cold as drearest winter night
The soul to intellectual pleasure blind.

Immersed in soft effeminacy's down,
The feeble Prince his subjects good neglects
For minions, who monopolize the crown,
And stain the sceptre which their vice protects.

The

The pamper'd GAVESTON, of favour vain,
First rous'd our angry Barons' slighted pride;
Till forced to banish him, the King with pain,
Escorts his darling to the vessel's side.

Soon he return'd, again in exile sent,
EDWARD once more his favourite recalls;
The land o'erflows with furious discontent,
And, spite of royal frowns, the Gascon falls.*

Next in the list, two worthless SPENCERS came,
Whose arrogance the people's rage renew'd;
Who peaceful England gave to quenchless flame,
And harmony exchanged for civil feud.

The Scotch too, mindful of their former woes,
When the first EDWARD with his spoilers came,
At BANNOCKBOURN on their now humbled foes
Take great revenge and win eternal fame.

Baffled by BRUCE, the King of England bends
To terms prescribed, that wars abroad may cease;

* Gaveston returning in 1312, the whole kingdom was up in arms; the favourite was besieged in Scarborough, taken, and beheaded by the Earl of Warwick.

Yet

Yet loses all his best domestic friends
By follies which at home destroy his peace.

The SPENCERS driven from their native land,
For rude extortion and oppression sore;
Turn pirates, and with fierce marauding band,
Infest the coast they oft had robb'd before.

Great LANCASTER* the Barons' phalanx leads,
EDWARD for once against a foe succeeds;
And his opponent on a scaffold bleeds.

But ISABEL,† the monarch's angry wife,
(Jealous of influence the SPENCERS gain,‡)
Against her husband mingles in the strife,
And thoughtless EDWARD quickly ceas'd to reign.

Disgust had made the Queen repair
To seek her brother, CHARLES the FAIR;

* Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, grandson of King Henry III.

† Isabella of France, daughter of Philip le Bel, the greatest beauty of her age, whom Edward's father had in his dying moments conjured him to marry.

‡ The Spencers were recalled and loaded with fresh honours.—They were, however, on the King's fortunes suffering a reverse, both executed by the Queen's and Mortimer's party.

Then

Then leagued with PHILIP of Hainault,
Her lord and sov'reign to assault.

Yet who shall free the Gallic dame
From stigma, and deserved blame;
Was it for her the mote to spy
That haply dimm'd her consort's eye:
When MORTIMER as it should seem,
Was, in her own, a monstrous beam.

DRAYTON, thy verse can better tell,
The hapless King what next befell;
Deposed, deserted, and disgraced,
In Ruffian restriction placed,
To insult cruelly exposed,
With agony his being closed!
GURNEY,* MAUTRAVERS, and the crew,
Who dared so fell a crime to do,

Were

* Miscreants, who after practising every degradation on the deposed King, that meanness and malice could invent, put him to a most excruciating death in Kenilworth Castle. When to add to other atrocious indignities, they brought cold and dirty water for Edward to shave with, the unfortunate Monarch, whose tears flowed fast, exclaimed, "You see I have warm water "in spite of you!" It is some alleviation to know that all concerned in Edward's murder met signal retribution. Gurney died by the hands of the executioner; Mautravers perished for want;

Edmund,

Were punish'd for the blood they spilt,
Yet live immortalized in guilt.
Oh! may the careless, thoughtless, great,
Profit by reading EDWARD's fate,
And men of cruel nature know,
Like EDWARD's murd'rers, more than EDWARD's woe.

The SPENCERS, who had caus'd this strife,
Paid for delinquency with life;
And what the folks of England gain,
Is, EDWARD's son styled King in vain,
While MORTIMER and ISABELLA reign.

Edmund, Earl of Kent, who conspired against the King, his brother, was beheaded through the intrigues of Mortimer, and the Queen; of whom the former was hanged, and the latter imprisoned for life.

Adam de Orleton, Bishop of Hereford, is said to have sanctioned the assassination of Edward by this ambiguous line:

Edwardum occidere, nolite timere, bonum est.

Or,

Edwardum occidere nolite, timere bonum est.

The punctuation making it either,

Edward to slay avoid, to fear 'tis good.

Or,

Edward to slay, avoid to fear! 'tis good.

Royal Poetry of this Reign.

EDWARD was learned, tho', like me, no poet;
The following lines, his own, may serve to shew it;
When, to a dungeon fallen from a throne,
The royal sufferer thus made his moan:

Written by EDWARD the SECOND.*

(On the authority of FABIAN.)

Damnum mihi contulit
Tempore brumali,
Fortuna satis aspera
Vehementis mali.
Nullus est tam sapiens,
Mitis, aut formosus
Tam prudens virtutibus,
Cæterisque famosus
Quin, stultus reputabitur
Et satis despectus,
Si fortuna prosperos
Avertat effectus.

* Of these verses, which Bishop Tanner styles, "Lamentatio gloriosi "Regis Edwardi, de Karnarvon, quam edidit temporæ suæ incarceratio- "nis."

Horace Walpole says,

I should believe that this melody of a dying Monarch is about as authentic as that of the old poetic warbler the Swan, and no better founded than the title of Gloriosi.

CATALOGUE OF ROYAL AUTHORS.

Imitated

Imitated by J. P. ANDREWS.

On my devoted head
Her bitterest showers,
All from a wintry cloud
Stern fortune pours;
View but her favourite,
Sage and discerning,
Grac'd with fair comliness,
Famed for his learning;
Should she withdraw her smiles
Each grace she banishes,
Wisdom and wit are flown,
And beauty vanishes.

SUMMARY OF THE REIGN OF

EDWARD III. SURNAMED OF WINDSOR.

Born at Windsor, November 30th, 1312. Crowned at Westminster, February 1st, 1327. Married Philippa, daughter of William, Earl of Hainault and Holland. Had issue, EDWARD, of Woodstock, the BLACK Prince of Wales, and first Duke of Cornwall; married to Joan, daughter of Edmund, Earl of Kent, (by whom he had Edward, who died young; and Richard the Second, who succeeded his grandfather:) the other children of King Edward were, William of Hatfield, who died in childhood; Lionel, Duke of Clarence; John of Ghent or Gaunt, Earl of Richmond, and Duke of Lancaster; Edmund of Langley, Earl of Cambridge, and Duke of York; William of Windsor, died young; and Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester; Isabella married the Earl of Soissons; Joan, died on her journey to marry a Prince of Castile; Blanche died young; Mary married to the Duke of Bretagne; and Margaret, to John Hastings, Earl of Pembroke.

PRINCIPAL EVENTS.

Mortimer, Earl of March, executed at Barne Elms; and the Queen Dowager imprisoned. Battles of Crecy and Poictiers,—the Kings of France and Scotland taken prisoners. Institution of the Garter. Death of Edward, the Black Prince. The statute of high treason first enacted. St. Stephen's Chapel, the present House of Commons, and Windsor Castle built.

EMINENT PERSONS.

Thomas Bradwardin, Simon Islip, Simon Langham, William Witlesey, and Simon Sudbury, Archbishops of Canterbury. Edward the Black Prince of Wales. De Montacute

King

King of Man. Earl of Salisbury. John, Lord Chandos. Latimer, Lord Chamberlain. James, Lord Audley, &c.

Cotemporary Sovereigns.

Popes.

John XII. 1316. Benedict XI. 1334. Clement VI. 1342. Innocent VI. 1352. Urban V. 1362. Gregory XI. 1370.

Emperors.

Of the East.—Andronicus III. 1320. John V. 1341. John VI. 1355.

Of the West.—Charles IV. 1347. Lewis IV. 1314.

Kings.

Of France.—Charles IV. 1322. Philip VI. 1328. John I. 1353. Charles V. 1364.

Of Portugal.—Alphonsus IV. 1325. Pedro I. 1357. Ferdinand I. 1367.

Of Denmark.—Christopher II. 1319. Waldemar III. 1340. Olaus III. 1375.

Of Sweden.—Magnus III. 1320. Albert, 1363.

Of Scotland.—Robert Bruce, 1306. David II. 1330. Edward Baliol, 1332. David II. restored, 1342. Robert (Stuart) II. 1370.

EDWARD THE THIRD.

"Honi soit qui mal y pense."
MOTTO OF THE GARTER.

"Edward first enroll'd
"His Redcross Knights, and Barons bold.
"Whose vacant seats, by virtue bought,
"Ambitious Emperors have sought;
"Where Britain's foremost names are found,
"In peace beloved, in war renowned;
"Who made the hostile nations moan,
"Or brought a blessing on their own."
TICKELL.

"Ich Dien."
MOTTO OF THE BLACK PRINCE.

"Whose ripe manhood spread our fame so far,
"A sage in peace, a demi-god in war;
"Who stern in fight made echoing Cressey ring,
"And mild in conquest, served his captive King?"
TICKELL.

WITH form and aspect to command respect,
With mind, desert and talent to protect,
EDWARD presents a model to admire:
His subjects' hearts before their sov'reign bend;
The widow's guardian, and the orphan's sire;
Foe to the vicious, to the good a friend.

Domestic

Domestic happiness his rich reward,
Link'd to his Queen by mutual regard;
Proud of a son, whose better scarce drew breath,
Through life beloved, lamented in his death.

The KING, while yet his years were but sixteen,
Saw MORTIMER ascendant o'er the Queen;
Indignant at their joint and lawless rule,
Scorning to be a mean, convenient, tool,
He boldly took the reins, well knowing, he
Who rules o'er Freemen should himself be free.
"To Nottingham, the north's imperious eye,
"Which as a pharos doth survey the soile,
"Armed by nature, danger to defie,
"MARCHE* to repose him after all his toile.
"Where treason (least advantage might espie)
"Closely convey'd his past price valued spoyle;
"That there residing from the publique sight,
"He might with measure relish his delight."†
There with "ninescore of special worth and sort
"MARCHE and the QUEEN maintaine one equal port."‡

* Mortimer was created Earl of March, at the close of the last reign, in 1327.

† Drayton. ‡ Drayton.

So

So DRAYTON sings, and further sings how "he

"And the bright QUEEN rule all things by their might,

"The state wherein at Nottingham they be,

"The cost wherewith their pompeous court is dight,

"Envy'd by those their hateful pride that see:

"The King attempts the dreadful cave* by night;

"Entering the castle, taketh him from thence,

"And MARCHE at LONDON dyes for his offence."

The King's fair fame but owns a single blot,†
Ambition taught him to deceive the Scot;

BALIOL

* A labyrinth constructed under the castle, through which the King's guards made way to the apartment, where,

"Vnarm'd was MARCH (she onely in his armes)
"Too soft a shield to beare their boys'trous blowes,
"Who least of all suspected such alarmes."

† Taking an ungenerous advantage of some border excursions, he declared the treaty of Northampton broken, and besieged Berwick; while Baliol (who had been intruded on the Scots as King by Edward, to the prejudice of David Bruce, and chased back to England by the indignant natives,) with an English army entered Scotland, and made Moray, the Regent, prisoner. Archibald Douglas, who succeeded to the Regency, attacking the English, with more courage than conduct, at Hallidown Hill, was slain with the principal nobility, and the army utterly

Baliol against his native plains allied,
With Caledonian blood his broad sword dyed;
At Hallidown too, mournful legends tell,
The Douglas with his thirty thousand fell.

Turn we the page to where the regal lance
With more of honour thins the ranks of France;
To where in naval fight 'tis Edward's boast
Their fleet to vanquish on the Flemish coast;
Two hundred ships destroyed, some tell us more,*
With thirty thousand corses, fright the shore;
The King, with half their force, this vict'ry gains,
And England's flag most gallantly maintains;
With less success the warlike chief, on land,
Headed an Anglo-German-Flemish band,

utterly destroyed, with hardly any loss on the side of Edward.—And says an old MS. in the Harleian Collection,

"This was do, with mery soune,
"With pipes, trompes and tabors therto,
"And loud clarionnes they blew also."

Vide J. P. Andrews.

* The French are said to have had four hundred vessels, out of which number they lost two hundred and thirty: while Edward's fleet only consisted of two hundred and forty. It is presumed these ships were principally transports, and those but of small dimensions; the disparity of numbers, however, serves to prove that the bravery and conduct of the British were always supereminent on the ocean.

A short-

A short-lived peace suspends a weak campaign,
Till quarrels, for the duchy of Bretagne,
" Cry havock ! and let loose the war" again.
EDWARD to 'venge his friend, the slain ARTOIS,
Joins MONTFORT's party against CHARLES DE BLOIS :
While valiant JANE DE MONTFORT leads the fight,
To vindicate a captive husband's right ;
Sustaining 'gainst DE BLOIS' superior powers,
A fierce blockade and siege in HENNEBONNE Towers,
Where, nearly forced by famine to give place,
Sir WALTER MANNY saves her from disgrace ;
From conquest almost gain'd, her foes retreat,
Aw'd by the presence of an ENGLISH FLEET !
The muse to aid with mingled power of pen,
Cou'd time, fame, vict'ry, furnish each a wing,
She might essay, but faintly even then,
The laurels won on CRECY's plains to sing.
With what success then shall her humble plume
Of goose-quill uninspired, the task asume?
Dare she attempt the praise of England's King,
Who like the lion cross'd in wish'd retreat,
Turn'd sudden on his hunters? dare she tell
How

How the BLACK PRINCE, high thron'd in valour's
seat,
Directed fortune as by magic spell,
And saw BOHEMIA'S MONARCH at his feet,
While round him Gallia's choicest leaders fell!

Alas! she knows not or to praise or blame
The King, who cared but for the Prince's fame,
And valued less his safety than his name.

When nearly overpower'd the youthful chief,
(His age fifteen,) sought from his sire relief;
No, cried the father, with demeanour stern,
My aid would snatch the laurel he may earn,
More worthy he to grace a future throne,
Who can in danger make success his own,
And owe the glory to himself alone.
Bohemia's King, eleven leaders more,
Who regal ensigns on their armour bore,
With eighty bannerets, twelve hundred knights,
Of nobles, fifteen hundred—men of name;*
Four thousand (so undoubted hist'ry writes),
With thirty thousand soldiers of less fame,

* Four thousand men at arms, which implies a distinction, are given in the list; besides thirty thousand common soldiers.

Fell

Fell on that ever memorable day:
While EDWARD's loss was only, strange to say,
Three knights, one valiant squire, and few indeed
Of private station who were known to bleed.

Calais, besieged, great EDWARD's pow'r defies,
Till "famine cling them," and the King enraged,
Soon as the city at his mercy lies,
To punish those whom self-defence engaged
In patriot warfare, to their pray'r for peace,
Decrees from slaughter 'ere the sword shall cease,
Six of their noblest with disgrace shall die:
Six, self-devoted, to the threat reply;
But great and good PHILLIPPA's suppliant breath,*
Saves EDWARD from dishonour, them from death;
PHILLIPPA who from England came,
With more of wreaths for EDWARD's name.
The SCOTTISH KING who vainly thought,
He, in the royal absence, might invade

* Phillippa on more than one occasion had the happiness to be successful in the amiable character of an intercessor. In the fourth year of this reign, a scaffold on which the Queen and many ladies were seated to see a tournament in Cheapside, fell down, and the royal and noble auditresses were precipitated from a considerable height; the carpenters would have inevitably suffered death, but the stern Edward was softened by the prayers and tears of the amiable Phillippa.

Our

Our land, with loss of crown the effort bought;
And by PHILLIPPA's arm was prisoner made
At NEVILL's CROSS, where, fatal to his reign,
Of valiant Scots are fifteen thousand slain.

His son and comrades to reward,
For triumphs won in contest hard,
O'er EDWARD's oft defeated foes,
The ORDER OF THE GARTER rose.

'Tis said of gayer origin it came,
The story coupled with a lady's name,*
Yet, with due rev'rence to the lovely dame,
(We delicately touch so soft a string)
Tho' great effect from little cause may spring,
'Twere better here to have it understood,
As royal guerdon for the great and good.
GLORY, untired of decking EDWARD's helm,
(And with her beams his enemies to whelm)

* Though many give credit to what ANDREWS calls the picturesque story of this order, originating from the Countess of Salisbury's garter, yet he adds from RASTELL's Chronicle, that "Some do affirme that this order beganne fyrst by King Richard "Cœur de Lyon, at the siege of the citie of Acres, where in his "greate necessytie there were but twenty-five knights that firmlye "and surelye abode by him, where he caused all them to wear "thonges of blue leythere aboute their legges, and afterwards "they were called knights."

Again

Again illumes the SABLE PRINCE, who gains
Another day, unmatch'd in former reigns:
A second CRECY to the first succeeds,
At POICTIERS, scene of more than mortal deeds;
With front unmoved, the Prince beholds advance,
To crush his little band, the power of France:
Attacked by Monarch, Princes, Nobles, all,
He sees their Princes, Nobles, Warriors, fall;
Hears their King own himself in grief's despite,
Surpass'd in curtesy as foil'd in fight;*
While England views her sovereign mildly greet
Two captive Monarchs kneeling at his feet.

A cloud at length obscures the brilliant day,
YOUNG EDWARD, after deeds excelled by none,
'Mid dazzling career was snatch'd away,
And with him, for a while, set England's sun!
Scarcely a year his mourning sire survived
The darling son in whom his glory lived;

* The number of French slain were, two Dukes, nineteen Earls, many Knights and Gentlemen, with several thousand men at arms. The prisoners were still more numerous, at the head of whom was their King John, who was treated with the most delicate respect by his conqueror, after his arrival in England. Henry Picard, Lord Mayor of London, had the honour to entertain the captive Kings of France and Scotland, and the King of Cyprus at one table, with most hospitable magnificence.

And

And prov'd, however fortunate and brave,
" The paths of glory lead but to a grave."

Tho' yet our stubborn language gave small scope,
To poesy and " lisp'd in numbers" still;
CHAUCER* gave birth to a prophetic hope,
Of what succeeding ages might fulfil.
From him and others, *en passant*, we chuse,
Some dozen lines, which occupy a place,
Not as fair samples, haply of the muse,
But the gradations of our tongue to trace
Since our last extract—and because their rhymes,
In some sort, sketch the manners of the times;
And, first from CHAUCER, we are taught to guess
At style of living, cookery, and dress.

Eating.

" A coke thei hadde with them for the nonce,
" To boil the chikens and the marie-bones,

* Chaucer, styled the first English poet, was page to Edward III. in 1359, married Phillippa, the sister of Catherine Swynford, (the future wife of John of Gaunt,) and is said to have had a large income, he was imprisoned as a Lollard, but ended his life in ease and plenty, at Donnington Castle, Berks, where he composed most of his best productions.

" And

" And powder marchaunt, tarte and galengale,
" Well couth he knew a draught of London ale;
" He couth rostè, boilè, grillè, and frie,
" And makè mortries, and well bake a pie;
" For blank manger that made he with the best,
&c."

Drinking.

" We shall have Rumney and malespine,
" Both Ypocras and Vernage wyne,
" Mountrese and wyne of Greke,
" Both Algrade and despice eke,
" Antioche and Bastarde,
" Pymont also and Garnarde, &c.

Spices.

" There was ike wexin many a spice,
" As clowe, gilofre, and licorice,
" Gingiber, and grein de Paris,
" Canell at sette wale of prys,
" And many a spice delitable,
" To eten when men rise fro' table."

Dress

Dress of an Archer.

" And he was cladde in cote, and hode of grene,
" A shefe of pecockes arrwes bryghte and clene,
" Under his belt he bore full thriftily,
" And in his hand he bare a mighty bowe,
" A not hed haddè he, with browne visage,
" Of wood craft couth he wel al the usage;
" Upon his arme he had a gai bracèr,
" And by his side a sworde and à bokelèr;
" And on the other side a gai daggere,
" Harneised well, and sharp as point of spere;
" A christofre on his breste of silken shene,
" An horne he bare, the baudrike was of grene."

CHAUCER.

Spring.

" This was in midst of month of May,
" When birdis sing on ilka spray,
" Melland* their notes with seemly soun,
" For softness of the sweet seasoun.
" And leaves of the branches spreeds,
" And bloomis bright, beside them, breeds,

* Mingling.

" And fieldis strawed are with flowers,
" Well favouring of seir* colours."

JOHN BARBOUR.†

Hunger.

" Hunger, in heste, though, hent Wastour by the mawe,
" And wronge him so by the wembe that both his eien water'd;
" He buffeted the Breton about the chekes,
" That he loked lyke a lanterne all his life after."

ROBERT LANGLANDE.‡

Chaucer thus describes the delicate distress of a maiden, in first disclosing her affections.

And as the new abashed nightingale,
That stinteth first when she beginneth sing,
When that the herith any hardis'§ tale,

* Their.

† Born at Aberdeen, but who, after he was an Archdeacon, obtained a licence from Edward III. to study at Oxford.

‡ Fellow of Oriel College,

§ Hardis, shepherd.

Or

Or in the hedgis anie wight stirring,
And after, siker* doth her voice outring;
Right so Cresseide (when that her drede stent,)†
Open'd her herte, and told him her intent.

* With confidence. † Stopped.

SUMMARY OF THE REIGN OF

RICHARD THE SECOND.

SURNAMED

OF BOURDEAUX.

Born at Bourdeaux, A. D. 1366. Crowned, June 21, 1376. Married twice, first to Anne of Luxemburg, sister of the Emperor Wenceslaus; and afterwards to Isabel, daughter of Charles VI. of France. Died, without issue, supposed to have been murdered in Pontefract Castle, Yorkshire, 1399, in the thirty-third year of his age, and twenty-third of his reign. Buried at Langley, afterwards removed to Westminster.

Principal Events.

Wat Tyler's insurrections. The dagger first placed in the city arms in compliment to the Mayor's courageous attack on Tyler. The Duke of Gloucester smothered. Death of the Duke of Lancaster. Bolingbroke returns from banishment and seizes the crown. Violent death of the King.

Eminent Persons.

William Courtney, Thomas Arundel, Archbishops of Canterbury. William Walworth, Lord Mayor of London. Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, Grandson to Clarence, heir apparent. Henry of Bolingbroke. Vere, Duke of Ireland. Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester.

Cotemporary Sovereigns.

Popes.

Gregory XI. 1370. Urban VI. 1378. Boniface IX. 1389.

Emperors

Emperors.

Of the East.—John VI. 1355. Emanuel II. 1391.
Of the West.—Charles IV. 1347. Wenceslaus, 1378.

Kings and Queens.

Of France.—Charles V. 1364. Charles VI. 1380.
Of Portugal.—Ferdinand, 1367. John I. 1385.
Of Denmark.—Olaus III. 1375. Margaret, 1385.
Of Sweden.—Margaret held Sweden with Denmark.
Of Scotland.—Robert II. 1370. Robert III. 1390.

RICHARD II. SURNAMED OF BOURDEAUX.

" Thus when you see this land by faction lost,
" Her nobles slain, her laws, her freedom, lost;
" Let this reflection from the action flow,
" We ne'er from foreign foes can ruin know.
" Oh, let us then intestine discord shun,
" We ne'er can be but by ourselves undone."

SAVAGE.

" I was not made a horse,
" And yet I bear a burden like an ass."

" Spur gall'd and tir'd by jaunting Bolingbroke."

" The skipping King he ambled up and down,
" With shallow jesters and rash basin wits,
" Mingled his royalty with carping fools;
" Had his great name prophaned with their scorns;
" Grew a companion to the common streets,
" That, being daily swallowed by men's eyes,
" He was but as the cuckoo is, in June,
" Heard, not regarded."

SHAKESPEARE'S RICH. II.

AN infant Monarch to the Throne succeeds,
Son of the Black Prince EDWARD, but in sooth,
No heir to his great sire's illustrious deeds,
Was RICHARD, " being but a moonish youth ;"*

* Shakespeare.

His

His Uncles LANCASTER* and GLOUCESTER sway,
With YORK, whose guardianship the States obey.
Ambitious guardians! to prolong their rule,
They represent their nephew as the tool
Of NEVIL and TRESILIAN, POLE and VERE,†
(Who certainly had gained the royal ear.)
Much more his uncles had their charge befriended,
If they in honesty had recollected,
Some faults without exposure may be mended,
And by mild means are ofttimes best corrected.

But, as there's little in this reign,
Save what we must record with pain,
Sans further comment let us try,
A very brief Chronology,
'Twill trouble spare to you and us,
Kind reader if you'll take it thus:

In *thirteen hundred seventy-seven*,
King EDWARD went, we hope, to heaven;

* The celebrated John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster; the Earl of Cambridge, afterwards Duke of York; and the Duke of Gloucester; all uncles to the King, were appointed his guardians, he being but ten years old.

† Vere, Earl of Oxford, Marquis of Dublin, and Duke of Ireland; Tresilian, a Judge; Michael de la Pole, a merchant's son; and Nevil, Archbishop of York.

And

And left his grandson, doom'd by birth,
To wear a careful crown on earth.
In *thirteen hundred seventy eight*,
WICKLIFF'S* opinions posed the state.
And JOHN of GAUNT marched many men
To France,—to bring them back again;
While *thirteen seventy nine and eighty*,
Are not renowned for matters weighty,
Until a poll tax, ill collected,
Much danger to the land effected;
And caused the evils which were done
In *thirteen hundred eighty one*.
WAT TYLER and his friend JACK STRAW,
Into their own hands take the law,
'Till WALWORTH† knock'd rebellion down,
By cracking Master TYLER'S crown;
And 'tis but just in RICHARD'S cause,
To say his gallantry deserved applause,

* A reformer of the Romish Church, he was cited by the Ecclesiastical Courts, but protected against them by the Duke of Lancaster.

† Sir William Walworth, Lord Mayor of London, enraged at Tyler's insolence in an interview with the King, struck him to the ground, and the dagger with which he dispatched him is commemorated by a place in the city arms.

The

The savage crew, by TYLER's death inflamed,
Were by his conduct, mild, yet brave, reclaimed.
The anarchy that er'st prevailed,
Is by friend ANDREW's thus detailed,
Translated in a prosperous hour,
From that famed poet Master GOWER:*

" WAT cries, TOM flies, nor SYMKIN stays aside;
" And BATT and GIBB, and HYKE † they summon loud,
" COLIN and BOB combustibles provide,
" While WILL the mischief forwards in the crowd;
" GREG hawls, HOB bawls, and DAVY joins the cry
" With LARRY, not the least among the throng;

* Gower's verses as a specimen of this reign's literature may not be unacceptable, particularly from the comic effect produced by putting English nick-names into a Latin dress.

" WATTE vocat cui THOMA venit, neque SYMME retardat,
" BAT que, GIBBE simul, HYKKE venire subent.
" COLLE furit, quem BOBBE juvat, nocumenta parantes,
" Cum quibus ad damnum WILLE coire vovet.
" GRIGGE rapit, Dum DAVIE, strepit, comes est quibus HOBBE,
" LARKIN, et in medio non minor esse putat,
" HUDDE ferit, quem JUDDE terit, dum TIBBE juvatur,
" JAKKE domosque vivos vellit, & ense necat, &c."

† Isaac.

" With

" HODGE drubbs, JUDE scrubbs, while TIB stands grinning by,
" And JACK with sword and firebrand madly strides along.

In *thirteen hundred eighty two*,
The King had something more to do;
For doomed to lead a restless life,
Bohemian ANN he took to wife.
In *thirteen hundred eighty three*,
A Bishop* militant we see
Against the French, who does no more
Than JOHN of GAUNT achieved before.
In *eighty four* and *eighty five*,
The Scots against our armies thrive;
And RICHARD loses JOAN his mother,†
For grief, he would'nt spare his brother.
In *thirteen hundred eighty six*,
King RICHARD's favourites play sad tricks;
Degrading so their lord's condition,
The crown was rendered in commission.‡

In

* Norwich.

† She broke her heart because Richard would not forgive Lord Holland, her son by a second marriage, for the murder of Lord Stafford's heir. Yet the inconsistent King granted him the next day the very pardon which, however unjust, would some hours earlier have saved his parent's life.

‡ The King was forced through a dread of deposition to abandon

In *eighty seven* the French confess,
The British Tars command success;
Being by NOTTINGHAM's brave fleet.
As since by others, soundly beat.*
'Twas TRESIL'AN and BREMBRES fate,
To swing in *thirteen eighty eight*;
" Sponges " who "soak'd authority "
'Till " squeez'd, and then hung up to dry;"
In this year too we find a place
For famous fight of CHEVY CHACE.†
In *thirteen hundred eighty nine*,
The Nobles to the King resign
Unfettered rule,‡ and *ninety* sees
(Only one year) the land at ease.

With

abandon his Ministers, and even commit the government of the realm to twelve commissioners appointed by parliament.

* He took one hundred and fifty sail.

† Celebrated by ancient Scotch Bards as the battle of Otterbourne.—Vide Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border, p. 27.

‡ Richard at this period abounded in money, which he raised by various extortions, to squander it away in ridiculous prodigality; of this, John Hardinge, a cotemporary poet, " not over smoothly," sings:—

" Truly I herd Robert Ireleſſe say,
" (Clerke of the grene cloth) that to thè housholde
" Came every dayè forth, most part alway,
" Ten thousand folkis, bi his messes told,
" That follow'd the house, ayè as thei wold;

" And

With *ninety one* some Dæmon sent
Famine and plague and discontent;
Nor *ninety two*, nor *three* brought more
Of happiness, while *ninety four*,
Still to depress the luckless man,
Deprived him of his good Queen ANN;
Who bid the fair no more bestride
Their steeds like men, but first to ride
As now, with decent modest pride,
Gracing the happy saddle's side.

"And, in the ketchin, three hundred servitours,
"And, in eche office, many occup'ours;
"Chamberers also, eke and launderers,
"And ladies fair, with their gentlewomen,
"Three hundred of them occupied were then,
"There was great pride among the officers;
"And of all men far passing their compeers,
"Of rich arraye, and more cost o-us,
"Than was before or since more preci-ous."

Richard's favorite method of obtaining money, was by loan; the proportions of the respective sums (as given by Andrews, from Rymer's Fædera) will shew the comparative wealth of the English Cities:

"From London, was asked ..... 10,000 Marks.
"York, Gloucester, Salisbury, and Lincoln, each 200 „
"Cambridge, Canterbury, & Southampton, each 100 „
"Bristol ..... 800 „
"Norwich ..... 500 „
"Lynn ..... 400 „
"Bath, Derby, and Litchfield, each ..... 20 „
"Harwich and Liskeard. each ..... 10 „

In

In *ninety five* his better star
Assists him in the Irish war;
And 'tis his fate in *ninety six*,
On Is'BEL* for a wife to fix,
Some bridegrooms had prefer'd to wait,
The lady's years were only eight.
In *ninety seven* GLO'STER fell,
And foully too, as records tell.
In *ninety eight* the banishment
Of HEREFORD† such discontent
Did in his partizans create,
As caus'd the King's ensuing fate;
For HEREFORD, his father dead,
(He, Duke of Lancaster instead),
Returns with means which soon encrease,
As RICHARD's failing powers cease;
And BOLINGBROKE‡ the King deposes,
Whose scene of earthly grandeur closes.

Forced

* Daughter to Charles the Sixth of France.

† Henry of Bolingbroke, son to the Duke of Lancaster.

‡ A manuscript in the late Royal Library at Paris, entitled Embassies, and numbered 8448, makes the unfortunate Richard reproach the ingratitude of Bolingbroke, in what are given as his genuine words: "Thrice have I saved his life; once my dear uncle of Lancaster (on whom God have mercy) would have slain him

Forced Albion's sceptre to resign,
In *thirteen hundred ninety nine.*
And soon in the succeeding year,
By means most horrible we fear,
His spirit sought that Judge most just,
Who sees in Kings but common dust.

'Tis said Piers Exton and eight more,
Of fiend-like ruffians join'd to slay
Their 'prisoned Sovereign, who bore
Himself in knightly sort that fatal day,
Of his opponents killing four,
As tho' the spirit of his sire in death,
Breathed valour from the source which gave the Monarch breath.

him for his treason and villainy; and then, O God of Paradise, all night did I ride to preserve him from death. Once, also, he drew his sword on me, in the chamber of Queen Ann! Oh, heaven! how truly is it said that the most deadly foe a man can have, is he whom he has saved from destruction."

END OF PART THE FIFTH.

ENGLAND.

PART THE SIXTH.

From the Death of Richard II. *to the Accession of the House of York.*

CONTENTS.

KINGS OF THE HOUSE OF LANCASTER.

Henry IV.—*Henry* V.—*Battle of Agincourt, and Conquest of France—Henry* VI.—*The Maid of Orleans—Red and White Roses—Jack Cade—Accession of the House of York.*

SUMMARY

SUMMARY OF THE REIGN OF

HENRY THE FOURTH,

SURNAMED

BOLINGBROKE.

Born, A. D. 1367. Crowned at Westminster, September 29th, 1399. Married twice, first to Mary le Bohun, daughter of Humphery Earl of Essex, Hereford, and Northampton, and Constable of England; by whom he had issue Henry of Monmouth, who succeeded him; Thomas, Duke of Clarence; John, Duke of Bedford; Humphery, Duke of Gloucester; Blanche, married to Lewis Barbatus, Elector Palatine of the Rhine; and Philippa, wife to Edric, King of Denmark and Norway. Henry afterwards married Joan of Navarre, by whom he had no issue. Reigned near fourteen years. Died at London; was buried at Canterbury, 1413.

Principal Events.

War with France, Scotland, Wales, and with English insurgents. Battles of Holmdon and Shrewsbury. Revolt and death of Henry Percy. Unpromising conduct of the Prince of Wales. A plague in London, which destroyed thirty thousand people. (In the Meudlla Historiæ Anglicanæ, and other Chronicles, less authentic than entertaining, are mentioned "sundry spirits, of divers colours, that appeared (before the rebellion of the Percies) between Bedford and Biggleswade, issuing out of the woods in the morning, which, to such as stood afar off, seemed to encounter one another in most terrible manner, but when they drew near, nothing was to be found. Also the devil appeared in the habit of a minorite, at Danbury church in Essex, to the incredible astonishment of

of the parishioners.) The first gun used in England was in this reign, at the siege of Berwick. An act passed to burn the Lollards.

Eminent Persons.

Thomas Arundel, Archbishop of Canterbury. Edmund Mortimer. Henry Percy, surnamed Hotspur Chief Justice Gascoigne. William of Wickham, Bishop of Winchester; founder of that school, and of Merton College, Oxford. Sir Robert Knolles. Sir Richard Whittington, Lord Mayor of London. John Gower; and Geoffrey Chaucer.

Cotemporary Sovereigns.

Popes.

Boniface IX. 1389. Innocent VII. 1404. Gregory XII. 1406. Alexander V. 1409. John XXIII. 1410.

Emperors.

Of the East.—Emanuel II. 1391.

Of the West.—Wenceslaus, 1378. Robert le Pet, 1400.—Sigismund, 1410.

Kings and Queen.

Of France.—Charles VI. 1380.

Of Portugal.—John I. 1385.

Of Denmark and Sweden. } Margaret, 1385. Eric XIII. 1411.

Of Scotland.—Robert III. 1309.

HOUSE OF LANCASTER.

HENRY THE FOURTH.

SURNAMED

OF BOLINGBROKE.

"When rude misgoverned hands from window tops
"Threw dust and rubbish on King Richard's head."

"The banished Bolingbroke repeal'd himself;
"Mounted upon a hot and fiery steed,
"Which his aspiring rider seem'd to know,
"With slow but stately pace kept on his course,
"While all tongues cried, God save thee, Bolingbroke,
"Jesu preserve thee, welcome Bolingbroke;
"Whilst he from the one side to the other turning,
"Bareheaded, lower than his proud steed's neck."

"I dress'd myself in such humility
"That I did pluck allegiance from men's hearts,
"Loud shouts and salutations from their mouths,
"Even as the presence of the crowned king."

"———— Heaven knows
"By what paths and crooked ways
"I met this crown; and I myself know well
"How troublesome it sat upon my head.
"And I had many living to upbraid
"My gain of it, by their assistance,
"And by whose power I well might lodge or fear
"To be again displaced: which to avoid,
"I cut them off."

SHAKESPEARE.

Q. UNDER

Q. UNDER what colour, or pretended claim,
Did BOLINGBROKE aspire to RICHARD's Throne?

A. EDWARD the third's fourth son, who bore the name
Of JOHN of GAUNT, as HENRY's sire was known.

Q. What claimant else look'd upward to the crown?

A. One whose more just pretensions were put down
By HENRY's friends,—young MORTIMER the heir
Of CLARENCE, EDWARD's second son,—more fair
His title: but in HENRY's hand was power,
Which brow beats Justice to this very hour.

Q. What troubles shaded HENRY's prosp'rous star?

A. A scene of foreign and of civil war;
And tho' he conquered each domestic foe,
'Twas HENRY's lot to find new troubles grow;
From these o'ercome, as poets sing of yore,
That Hydra Heads, when crop'd, encreas'd the more.

As if the Gods refused that Prince to bless,
Whose tyranny but grew with his success.
Religion too excites mistaken ire,
And martyr'd Lollards* feed the bigots fire;
"HENRY the CRUEL" was the name obtain'd
From blood of subjects almost daily drain'd.

Q. What foreign powers join with mighty foes,
The right and reign of HENRY to oppose?

A. The Scotch; bold DOUGLAS leads a hardy band,
To aid young PERCY of Northumberland
In MORTIMER's behalf,—their efforts meet
In frequent fields, succession of defeat.
The DOUGLAS yields†, the PERCY breathless lies:
And Scotland's Prince becomes the Victor's prize.

Q. What

* Thomas Badby, a Worcestershire tailor, burnt in Smithfield for denying the corporeal presence in the sacramental bread, was one of the first English martyrs. The young Prince Henry twice ordered him to be taken from the stake, and a pardon and a pension were offered him; but he persisted, and died in the maintenance of his opinion.

† Earl Douglas had before been taken prisoner, at the battle of Holmedon, where, enraged at the havoc made by the English archers, (according to Walsingham) he rushed forward, accompanied

Q. What nations else co-operation bring,
To join with those who hate the reigning king?
A. The French assist the fiery chiefs of Wales,
Whose enterprize, like that related, fails;
GLENDOWER's fortune seems at first to soar,
Aided by stormy blasts, and thunder's roar,
So strangely that the lustre of his arms
Is dimm'd by a belief that magic charms
Enabled him to lull his foes to sleep,
And "conjure spirits from the vasty deep."
Q. Against the King what else attempted France?
A. In GUIENNE with some success their arms advance,
At CALAIS too the chance of war they tried;
But HENRY's arts the gallic chiefs divide,
Distract their councils, keep their force at bay,
'Till "*Divide and Imp'ra*" wins the day.

panied by eighty men of rank, to disperse that formidable corps; but was wounded in five places, and made prisoner. After his liberation, he again led the Scots at the battle of Worcester, where he broke through the English ranks, and slew three persons dress'd like Henry. At length he fled, and having fallen down and wounded himself in a strange manner, was taken. The Prince of Wales, hitherto not an estimable character, fought bravely, and though wounded in the face, would not quit the field: the King, too, is said to have performed prodigies of valour, and to have slain thirty-six rebels with his own hand.

Q. Was

Q. Was he not with paternal cares opprest?

A. The conduct of his son disturbed his rest;
The Prince forgetful of his rank and worth,
Associates with men of slightest worth,
Unblushing leads their vulgar sports by day,
And, rendered by their nightly revels gay,
"Hot with the Tuscan grape and high in blood,"
'Tis said with robbers leagued he rashly stood,
And here might we "in jocund strains recite,*
The prurient "humours of the braggart knight;†"
But one WILL SHAKESPEARE having told the tale,
We should but make a shrimp of Billy's whale.
The Prince who thus his dignity could stain,
Had power lost reputation to regain;
And "revocare gradus" firmly tried,
'Till, from its scorn, he shone a nation's pride;

* The Prince had the imprudence to appear in Court, to countenance one of his offending associates, and actually struck the Judge on the Bench: but, as instantly ashamed of his conduct, submitted to go to prison. The King was equally pleased with the firmness of the Judge, (Gascoigne) and the obedience of his Son; who afterwards hearing his Father suspected him of measures to disturb the public peace, went to Court to acquit himself, in a kind of allegorical habit, which has never been accounted for.—"He was apparelled in a gown of blue satin, full of oilet holes; at every hole, the needle hanging by a silk thread with which it was sewed."

† Garrick's Jubilee.

"And

" Offending so, to make offence a skill,
" Redeeming time" he'd let too long stand still.

Q Or did the Monarch feel, or seem to feel,
Against the infidels " most christian" zeal?

A. Yes, and no more of foes at home afraid,
He meant to undertake a grand crusade;
For some false prophet ventured to divine,
He should expire in holy Palestine,
And expiating sins and folly's past,
Jerusalem should see him breathe his last.

Q. And did it?

A. Yes; and yet the prophet err'd,
For this Jerusalem, as we have heard,
Was but a room so called, where HENRY's breath,
Cut short by leprosy,* was closed in death.

Q. What men of eminence his reign adorn?

A. With English science 'twas but early morn;
WILLIAM of WICKHAM, CHAUCER, Master GOWER,†
Sir ROBERT KNOLLES, of valiant knights the flower;
And

* Or by a paralytic attack.

† Gower; a specimen from whom is given under Richard II. died in 1402.

Chaucer

And surely to omit would not be fair,
The famed Sir RICHARD WHITTINGTON, Lord Mayor,
Of whom each 'prentice has the story pat,
Of London bells, cross cook maids, and a cat.*

Q. Did not the King, who ow'd it most protection,
Oft' violate the freedom of election?

A. Most shamefully, and Sheriffs were required
But to return what men the Court desired;
Who, acquiescing with obsequious bow,
Projected taxes, high as they are now.
The rich the taxes wou'd'nt pay,
The poor the taxes cou'd'nt pay;
And middle ranks might rightly say,
(As sang a poet of that day):

Chaucer addresses him, "O! moral Gower! &c. &c."

James I. of Scotland thus speaks of him and Chaucer;

"Unto Impnis of my maisteris dere
"Gower and Chaucer, on the steps they sate
"Of rhetorike, whyle they were lyvande here,
"Superlative as Poets-Laureatte.
"In moralitie and eloquence ornate."

* Whittington founded an Hospital, made many charitable bequests, and rebuilt Newgate, where the statue of his Cat, according to Pennant, accompanied his own.

"Duce

" Duce ace non possunt, et sise cinque solvere
nolunt,
" Est igitur notum, Cater-tray solvere totum."

CAMDEN.

Of which, for ladies' information,
We add James Petit Andrew's imitation:

" Says Duce Ace I can't,
" Says Size Cinque I sha'n't:
" So poor Cater-tray
" The whole sum must pay."

SUMMARY OF THE REIGN OF

HENRY THE FIFTH,

SURNAMED

OF MONMOUTH.

Born at Monmouth, 1388. Crowned 1413. Married the Princess Katherine of France, by whom he had Henry VI. who succeeded. The Queen Dowager afterwards married Owen Tudor, a private Welch Gentleman, from whom descended Henry VII. The King reigned near Ten years; died 1422, and was buried at Westminster.

Principal Events.

The Earl of Cambridge, and others, beheaded for Treason. Sir John Oldcastle, Lord Cobham, burnt alive for heresy. Sixty thousand French defeated by fifteen thousand English, at Agincourt. Conquest of France. A law was passed in this Reign, that Knights, Citizens, and Burgesses, serving in Parliament, should be residents of the places represented.

Eminent Persons.

Henry Chicheley, Archbishop of Canterbury. Cardinal Beaufort, Bishop of Winchester, younger Son of John of Gaunt, and Preceptor to Henry the Fifth and Sixth. Talbot Earl of Shrewsbury.

Cotemporary Sovereigns.

Popes.

John XXIII. 1410. Martin V. 1417.

Emperors.

Emperors.

Of the East.—Emanuel II. 1394.
Of the West.—Sigismund, 1410.

Kings.

Of France.—Charles VI. 1380.
Of Portugal.—John I. 1385.
Of Denmark and Sweden. } Eric XIII. 1411.
Of Scotland. — Robert III. 1390.

HENRY V. SURNAMED OF MONMOUTH.

"Young Harry's the lad for me."

Mrs. BROOKES.

Who gain'd at Agincourt the victor's bays,
Nor took himself, but gave to Heav'n, the praise!

TICKEL.

"By pleasure's bright allurements led along,
"Soon did he shake his head, and say that all was wrong!
"Then, streams of radiance mark'd his destin'd way;
"Where'er he trod the magic gleams appear;
"His burnish'd breast-plate sparkled on the day,
"And glory's harp still roll'd along his ear."

LEIGH HUNT'S PALACE OF PLEASURE.

"Not to day, O! lord,
"Oh! not to-day! Think not upon the fault
"My father made in compassing the crown.
"I Richard's body have interred new,
"And on it have bestowed more contrite tears,
"Than from it issued forced drops of blood.
"Five hundred poor have I in yearly pay,
"Who, twice a day, their wither'd hands hold up
"To Heav'n, to pardon blood!—And I have built
"Two chauntries, where the sad and solemn priests
"Sing still for Richard's soul!

SHAKESPEARE.

"In our fifth Harry's reign, when 'twas the fashion
"To thump the French, poor creatures, to excess,
"Tho' Britons now-a-day show more compassion,
"And thump them, certainly, a great deal less.*

* Mr. Colman wrote this before some late glorious events in the Peninsula, and other parts of Europe.

"For

" For Harry's reign, when flush'd Lancastrian roses
" Of York's pale blossoms had usurp'd the right,
" As wine drives nature out of drunkards' noses,
" 'Till red, triumphantly, eclipses white
" In Harry's reign.—But let me to my song,
" Or, good King Harry's reign may seem too long."

GEORGE COLMAN, THE YOUNGER.

SCARCE BOLINGBROKE lay quietly inurned,
E're the succeeding Prince with ardour burn'd
To pay obedience to a sire's behest,
And keep the nobles from reflective rest.

But first with manly promptness it was said,
To stigmatise the life he lately led,
Young HENRY bade his former friends draw near,
And on his own, as on their faults severe;
Taking an ample share of serious blame,
Pointed the better path to honest fame,
Admonish'd, gave the means, their lives to mend—
Yet promised only further to befriend,
When merit justly claiming his regard,
By reformation led, should seek reward.

Those who of late reproved his lawless youth,
And served his father with unyielding truth,

They

They trembling now approach'd the rising sun,
But found his thoughtless race of error run;
Advancement on their former zeal attends,
And all are hailed as counsellors and friends.*
But chiefly him† whose bold and upright mind
(To all distinction, in his duty, blind,)
Maintain'd the honor of his master's place,
Nor would permit a prince the law disgrace;
Without reproof; his ancient sovereign then
Proclaim'd himself most blest of royal men.
In such a son who feared to disobey,
Or rather, who, for disobedience shown,
Submitted gracefully his fault to own,
Confess'd himself inferior to the laws,
And turn'd past censure to deserv'd applause.

The youthful monarch now to Paris sends,
Proposing France and England should be friends,

* "He was not only anxious to repair his own misconduct, but also to make amends for those iniquities into which his father had been betrayed. He expressed the deepest sorrow at the fate of the unhappy Richard; performed his funeral obsequies with pomp and solemnity; and cherished all who had been attached to him."

HUME.

† Judge Gascoigne.

That

That CATHERINE's* hand with his in wedlock join'd,
A league of lasting amity might bind;
But then, for dowry, 'tis demanded, France
Two million crowns, prompt payment, should advance;
With an old debt of near two million more,
As King JOHN's ransom, bargained for before.
Then Normandy and other lands beside,
Were woo'd with much more ardor than the bride.
France offers HARRY, and I think no slight,
A wife, eight hundred thousand crowns, with right
Of Sovereignty in Guienne, and to be Lord
Of Rouerne, Saintongue, Aug'more, Perigord;
But HENRY ready with a numerous fleet,†
Refused, for less than what he ask'd to treat.
There be some cunning folks to think inclined,
The King had pretty well made up his mind,

* Daughter of Charles VI. of France.

† He was, perhaps, the first English Monarch who had ships of his own; two were called the King's Chamber, and the King's Hall; they had purple sails, and were large and beautiful; there were also the Trinitie, the Grace de Dieu, the Holy Ghost, and many more which now be lost.

Vide J. P. ANDREWS.

That

That France would surely beg to be excused,
From terms on purpose framed to be refused;
Whether such policy suit ill or well
With honest dealing, is not mine to tell,
My task but gives in brief the Sovereign's acts,
'Tis your's to make due inference from facts.

There is a tale, but founded not in truth,
That CHARLES the DAUPHIN, slighting HENRY's youth,
A tun of tennis balls in gibe sent o'er,
As suited to the life HAL led before;
But all historians of respected name
The verity of such an act disclaim;
France at all time, from circumstances, was far
From wishing ought that might provoke a war.

"Now all the youth of England are on fire,"
And France is threaten'd with our hottest ire;
When treason midst an host of knightly peers,
Close to the King's her felon banner rears,
Lord SCROPE, Earl CAMBRIDGE, and Sir THOMAS GREY,
Conspire (supposed with MARCH,) to take away

The

The crown and life of HARRY; Justice keen,
As sudden as unlook'd for, steps between
The plot and execution, treason fails,
The traitors fall, and gallant HENRY sails.

At Harfleur now the gallic drums,
Give note our English hero comes.

HARFLEUR surrenders; HENRY's host
Prepares for Calais, when 'tis found
That France, collecting all her boast
Of rank and valour, line the coast,
And with proud threat the British band surround.

HENRY makes offer Harfleur to restore,
And to retrace his steps; the French deny;
The English Chief has but one project more,
To beat his four-fold enemy or die.

Oh, memory of CRECY, come again,
And POICTIERS too.—Shades of the slain ne'er scoff,
Let your bright blades assist to mend my pen,
Or AGINCOURT* will come most tamely off.

* Called also, Azincourt.

The French, who 'ere a pris'ner had been taken,
Had sold the English as they did before,
Lost ev'ry purchase, cou'dn't save their bacon,
And got, to clench the nail, one drubbing more.
Their gilded herald asked our iron King
His army's safety, and his own to buy;
HARRY thrice answer'd he'd do no such thing,
And his applauding troops with shouts reply.

The French, astonish'd at our not retreating
On any terms, so pitied us the beating
Intended for us, they'd no heart to give it,
And (Memory of the deed will long out-live it!)
The kind compassionating well-bred elves,
Were good enough to take it on themselves;
In two words, never was a day so dashing,
Nor ever did Mounseer get such a thrashing.

Six Princes* of the blood were slain outright,
Or, a-la-modern French, the dust did bite;
Archbishop SENS, and Constable of France,
Fall also victims to the English lance.

* The Count of Nevers, Vaudemonte, and Marle; the Dukes of Brabant, Alenzon, and Barre.

ORLEANS,

ORLEANS, two BOURBOUNS, VENDOME, D'EU, who yield
With BOUCICAUT, and RICHEMONTE on the field,
Of fourteen thousand captives swell the train,
Who mourn at least ten thousand comrades slain!
The Duke of YORK, brave SUFFOLK, and as few
As thirty* more, if chronicles speak true,
Were all who fell on conquering HARRY's side;
Among them Davy GAM,† of Wales the pride,
Who being ask'd how many were the foe?
Answered, "Hur did not quite exactly know:
"But this hur poldly wou'd peg leave to say,
"There wou'd pe found enough upon that day,
"To die, be taken, or to run away."
Yet this great victory, like those of yore,
At CRESSY and POICTIERS, produced no more
Than reputation,—HENRY made a pause,
In which his foes recruit their sinking cause.

* With the English Army there was only one Surgeon, who, says RYMER's FÆDERA, had engaged to find fifteen more; three of whom were to act as Archers.

† "The King had been rescued by DAVY GAM, and two others, right valiant Welchmen, ROGER VAUGHAN and WALTER LLOYD, of Brecknock, who were knighted as they lay bleeding to death." MONSTRELET.

To England, with his pris'ners, sailed away,
Gaining alone the honor of that day;
While in succession to dissentions rude,
A two years truce the adverse Kings conclude.

Now, by her children wounded, Gallia bleeds,
And "civil dudgeon" foreign wars succeeds;
HENRY returns and joins King CHARLES—poor elf,
To fight against the DAUPHIN for himself;
Wins lower Normandy, each claim renews
That France erst did, but dare not now refuse,
Proving our SACRED MASTER's lesson good,
"No kingdom self-divided ever stood."
Thus HENRY strength from CHARLES's weakness gains,
And each ambitious wish with ease obtains;
KATE's hand endowed with treasure, province, town,
And the reversion of the Gallic crown,
(Which came in time, for he had pawn'd his own.)*

At

* The revenues of the Government, and the grants of Parliament, were so inadequate to Henry's expensive armies and expeditions, that he was forced to pawn his crown to his uncle, Cardinal

At Troyes a solemn treaty they prepare,
When England is of France decreed the heir;
The DAUPHIN, scorning to resign his right,
Subdues and is subdued, in frequent fight.
HENRY to reinforce his troops comes over,
And levies bands which rendezvous at Dover;
Mean time the Scots, by gallant BUCHAN led,
Against us in the DAUPHIN's cause make head;
For England royal CLARENCE heads the strife,
And loses, in a brother's cause, his life.*
DORSET and SOMERSET, of English lords,
With HUNTINGDON, resign their captive swords,
When HENRY with his new-raised force arrives,
To 'venge his brother's and his warriors' lives,

Cardinal Beaufort, for a large sum; and certain jewels to the Lord Mayor of London, for ten thousand marks; he was also obliged to pledge two gold chased basons, weighing together 23lb. 8oz. to two Canons of Saint Paul's, for six hundred marks; and two golden shells to the Dean of Lincoln, for one hundred more.—The cost of his army was great: each Knight received 20s. per diem; a Squire, 10s. and each Archer, 5s.—Besides which, he had a costly band of music, among which were ten clarions, which played an hour, night and morning, before his tent.

BERTRAND DE MOLEVILLE, J. P. ANDREWS, RYMER's FÆDERA, MONSTRELET, &c.

* In the battle of Bareges, where a Knight, wounded the Duke of Clarence in the face, and the mace of Lord Buchan deprived him of his life.

Beyond

Beyond the Loire the DAUPHIN's standard
chaced,
And well retrieved what late our arms disgraced.
Scarce had his conquering sword this laurel won,
'Ere CATHERINE presents him with a son;
His glory and success attain their height,
When death converts his brilliant day to night.

The Lollards still, from persecuting zeal,
Were doom'd the fires of bigotry to feel;
And good Lord COBHAM,* for opinion's sake,
With other martyrs suffered at the stake.
Few other incidents to tell remain,
The visit of an Emp'ror† graced this reign;
THREE POPES‡ at once assume St. Peter's Chair,
And SEVEN DOLPHINS§ swam to Greenwich
fair!!!

A modest

* This Martyr's name is in the catalogue of noble authors.

† The Emperor Sigismond, who came to mediate between this country and France.

‡ "Benedict, Gregory, and John, the Council of Constance, sate to terminate this schism. Henry sent nine English prelates thither; one of whom, Richard Clifford, Bishop of London, was the first nominated by the Council to be Pope, and the first nominated him that succeeded, which was Otho Colonna, by the name of Martin the Fifth."

MEDULLA HISTORIÆ ANGLICANÆ.

§ In the third year of Henry's Reign, four of them were taken; they made their appearance in the Thames on Candlemas day, but the

A modest Poet claims some notice here,
Somewhat of CHAUCER "doth in him appear;"
And it were well, perhaps, you think for me,
To take good note by "hys humiletie;"
Thro' which fair veil a spark of genius shines,
As is "set forth" in these "his pythie lines."

"I am a monk by my profession,
"Of Bury, call'd JOHN LYDGATE by my name,
"And wear a habit of perfection,
"Altho' my life agree not with the same;
"That meddle should with things spiritual,
"As I must needs confess unto you all."

"But seeing, as I did in this proceed,
"At his* commands whom I could not refuse,
"I humbly do beseech all those that read,
"Or leisure have this story to peruse,
"If any fault therein they find to be,
"Or error that committed is by me,

author finding that date no rhyme to "St. Peter's Chair," took the liberty of treating the said Dolphins with an Easter or Whitsuntide peep at the grand gala of the London 'prentices.

* King Henry the Fifth.

That

" That they will of their gentleness, take pain,
" The rather to correct, and mend the same,
" Than rashly to condemn it with disdain ;
" For well I wot, it is not without blame,
" Because I know the verse therein is wrong,
" As being some too short, and some too long."

In this reign too, thus singeth Tom Occleve,
Who for his "mayster" Chaucer's loss doth grieve:
" But well awaye so is myne hert'e wo',
" That the honour of English tongue is dede,
" Of which I wont* was han cousel rede!
" O, mayster dere, and fader reverent!
" My mayster Chaucer, flowre of eloquence!
" What eyled Deth? alas! why wode he sle' the?
" O Deth thou didst no harm singuliere,
" In slaughter of him, both all the land it smarteth;
" But nathless yt hast thou no power,
" His name to sle," &c. &c.

* Was wont to have.

SUMMARY OF THE REIGN OF

HENRY THE SIXTH,

SURNAMED

OF WINDSOR,

Born at Windsor, December 6th, A. D. 1421. Succeeded his father the year following, when only nine months old. Married Margaret of Anjou, daughter to Reigner, Titular King of Sicily; by whom he had Edward, slain in cold blood after the Battle of Tewkesbury.—Henry was dethroned in the fortieth year of his age, and thirty-ninth of his reign; and died (not without great suspicion of violence,) in the Tower, in 1471. He was buried at Chertsey, and afterwards removed to Westminster.

Principal Events.

France gradually, but completely, lost. Jack Cade's rebellion. Long and bloody civil wars between the Red and White Roses of Lancaster and York. The Eastern Empire conquered by the Turks.

Eminent Persons.

John Stratford, John Kemp, and Thomas Bourloieur, Archbishops of Canterbury. De la Pole, Duke of Suffolk. The Dukes of Bedford, Gloucester, Exeter, and Bishop of Winchester, Regents and Guardians to the King. Richard Duke of York, and Partisans.

Cotemporary Sovereigns.

Popes.

Martin V. 1417. Eugenius IV. 1431 Nicholas V. 1447. Calixtus III. 1455. Pius II. 1458.

Emperors

Emperors.

Of the East.—Emanuel II. 1391. John VII. 1426. Constantine III. and last Christian Emperor. Succeeded by his conqueror, Mahomet II. who took Constantinople by storm, May 29th, 1453.

Of the West.—Sigismund, 1410. Albert II. 1438. Frederic III. 1440.

Kings.

Of France.—Charles VII. 1422. Louis XI. 1461.

Of Portugal.—John I. 1385. Edward, 1433. Alphonsus, 1438.

Of Denmark and Sweden.—Eric IX. 1411. Christopher III. 1439. Christian I. 1448.

Of Scotland.—Robert III. 1390. James I. 1424. James II. 1437. James III. 1460.

HENRY VI. SURNAMED OF WINDSOR.

" More sinn'd against than sinning."

SHAKESPEARE.

" The best of men have ever loved repose;
" They hate to mingle in the filthy fray,
" Where the soul sours, and gradual rancour grows
" Imbittered more from peevish day to day."

THOMSON.

" While second Richard's blood for vengeance calls,
" Doom'd for his grandsire's guilt, poor Henry falls
" In civil jars, avenging judgment blows
" And royal wrongs, entail a people's woes;
" HENRY unversed in wiles, more good than great,
" Drew on by meekness his disastrous fate."

SAVAGE.

" Plague of both your houses."

SHAKESPEARE.

" When Greek met Greek, then was the tug of war."

LEE.

EIGHT months of life the little monarch owns,
Whose baby sceptre ruled a brace of thrones;
At WESTMINSTER and PARIS, crown'd in both,
His subjects take the customary oath.

In

In both to break it—Soon his foreign crown
Sits loose, his English sceptre beaten down
By party and rebellious civil war,
He proves the splendor of a falling star!

Gloucester as Regent of the realm appears,
During the infant Sovereign's tender years;
Bedford in France not destin'd long to stay,
In Henry's name supports the English sway.
The Dauphin, (who when meaning to be merry,
The English styled "the little King of Berry,")
Still of his birthright kept encreasing hold,
Nor let his, surely just, pretence take cold.*
And now to help him with most wond'rous aid,
From fields obscure,† darts forth a village maid;
A shepherdess—her story you may mark,
Told wond'rously in "Southey's Joan of Arc;"
So well indeed—the Imp of Envy fetch it!
That I'm afraid in outline but to sketch it.

* "About this time, at the siege of Orleans, fell the Earl of Salisbury by a cannon shot, being the first English gentleman ever slain thereby."

Camden.

† In the Village of Domremi, near Vaucoleurs, on the borders of Loraine.

Poor

Poor JOAN, who cou'd'nt *read*, "Oh, spite of spite!"
Has an historian now, who cannot write;
She's to be pitied, but unless I err,
The loss is more to me, than 'twas to her:
Well, be it so, whether I win or lose,
The tale I'll tell, and tell it how I chuse.

JOAN OF ARC.

A Tragedye fulle of Merrie Conceites.

JOAN of ARC, they say, was mad,
Some a conjuror misname her;
And swear she by the Dauphin had
A little—but why here defame her?*

Who against the maid say this?
Enemies I dare assure ye;
And she's no subject well I wis,
For trial by an ENGLISH JURY.

* French authors say she never slept in camp without two of her brothers to guard her; nor in a town without some female, of exemplary character, to bear her company.

Britons

Britons then would jibe, as now,
At men of France,—could kill and eat 'em;
Yet contrived, I can't tell how,
To let a French young woman beat 'em.

JOAN, derived of parents' poor,
Had nor learning, name, nor riches;
Yet did wonders, to be sure,
As ladies' will who wear the breeches.

By some 'tis not unshrewdly thought,
She by the Dauphin's friends was taught
To play her pretty patriotic part;
Well, if she was,
She own'd, that's poz,
Uncommon skill, and most consummate art.

JOAN was a simple shepherd's maid,
Yet nightly visited, she said,
By visions, and by angel sights;
Which told her where, if she'd a mind,
A rare and rusty sword to find,
With power to put the English folks to rights.

Then in the stoutness of her soul,
She sent to WILLIAM DE LA POLE,

And

And bid him lead his Britons back;
Or, by the guardian pow'rs of France,
She swore to make his people dance,
And bang his body like a sack.

I own the simile is very low,
But JOAN would speak her mind you know;
And, I know too, a shepherd wench is,
(Whether she English girl or French is),
Not sheepish when conversing with a foe.
Something she must have said, which form derides,
For DE LA POLE
Thought it so droll,
He laugh'd enough to split his Suffolk sides.
But when his armour she began to batter,
The chief declared 'twas no such laughing matter;
Nor knew by what ill-natured names to christen her,
When, spite of his broad sword, she took him pris'ner.*
TALBOT, and HUNGERFORD, RAMPSTONE, and SCALES,
Fretted like hottest gentlemen of Wales

* Suffolk was taken by Renaud, a French gentleman, whom he first knighted before he would surrender to him.

When

When they were taken,—swore 'twas very odd,
The French ascribed the power of a God
To sturdy JOAN, while Englishmen less civil,
Declared such treatment was the very Devil *

Towns she relieved, more captives took,
And thro' her valour CHARLES, it seems,
Was crown'd the Sovereign of France at Rheims †
When by her brilliant star forsook,
A knight of Burgundy o'ercame poor JOAN,
Sent her in irons to be tried at Roan.
Where can I without shame relate it!
Wicked transaction! how I hate it!
Soldiers and nobles, gentlemen of note,
Prelates,—the story's sticking in my throat,
A mean trap laid,
To catch the maid

* The Regent, in his letter to the King and Council, speaks of Joan as a Disciple and Lymme of the Fiende that used fals Enchauntments and Sorcerie, the which strocke and discomfiture not onlie lessed in grete Pertie the nombre of youre people there, bote as well withdrowe the courage of the reminant in mervellous wyse." RYMER'S FÆDERA.

† After the coronation, she embraced the King's knees, and with tears extorted by pleasure and tenderness, congratulated him in this singular and marvellous event." HUME.

While

While putting on, poor girl, a suit of armour;
And, foul befal the chiefs that so could harm her!
To all their everlasting shames,
(I burst to call them fifty names,)
Condemn'd the gallant damsel to the flames.
And was this most unmanly action done
Merely for putting martial harness on?
No, 'twas mere spite, one sees it in a minute,
Because she had most soundly thrash'd 'em in it.

The death of BEDFORD* matters didn't mend,
Each day we gain'd a foe or lost a friend;
Each day our gallic fortune met reverse,
And bad news only came to herald worse.
King HENRY some time after this got married,†
A match which gave his subjects little pleasure,
For all his wishes, save the Queen, miscarried,
And folks grew discontented out of measure.‡
To

* When the Dauphin, after being crowned, was advised to demolish the Regent's decent monument of black marble, "Let him repose", said the generous monarch, "in peace, and be thankful that he does repose; were he awake, he would make the stoutest among us tremble."

† To Margaret of Anjou, Daughter to Reigner, King of Sicily.

‡ Cardinal Beaufort had been a Bishop fifty years; he left an illegitimate daughter, and founded the Abbey of Saint Cross, at

To MARGARET, we hope with falsehood's breath,
The people laid the good Duke HUMPHREY's death;*
His nephew BEAUFORT 'twere as just to deem
An agent too,—his constant wrangling strife,
Embitter'd the deceased protector's life.
BEAUFORT not long survived, at it should seem
And left, sans sign of grace, this world's unequal dream.
Affairs in France proceed as ill as ever,
Normandy, Gascony, their interests sever;
While SOMERSET in France is losing ground,
At home dissentions and distrust abound.
The Duke of YORK that flame 'gins light,
Which, fed by Roses red and white,
Produced to hundreds, then unborn,
Many a sharp and burning thorn;

Winton; as Legate from Rome, and as an ambitious meddling Priest, he was universally dreaded. He survived his uncle, the good Duke, whom he had greatly persecuted, but a few days.

* Soon after having been seized by the Queen's party on a charge of treason, he was found dead in his bed. His wife Eleanor had been ignominiously punished on a charge of sorcery, and was not permitted to enjoy her jointure after her husband's death. The Duke has the credit of having founded the Bodlean Library.

Accused

Accused of good Duke HUMPHRY's end,
SUFFOLK is banished; on his way a friend
Of YORK's, turn'd pirate, as 'tis said,
Makes SUFFOLK shorter by the head.

And now, disunion's cause to aid,
" Lord of Misrule," comes famed JACK CADE;
And thus the essence of his doctrine ran,
And, thus inscribed, his standard graced the van:

" When Adam delv'd,
" And Eve span,
" Who was then
" A Gentleman?"*

With Johnny decent dress or education
Were 'clep'd high treason 'gainst the nation;
And every mortal that could read or spell,
By axe or halter swang or fell.
For taking peoples nobs off, JACK took pride in:
Yet changed his tone,
Just as his own
Was going to be cropp'd by Mister IDEN;

* "Now am I master of London." said Cade, striking his staff upon London-stone. He had been a dependant on Sir Thomas Dacre, in Sussex, and lately returned from France, whither he had fled in consequence of having murdered a woman and her child. WARTON.

Who for the death of this high, low, Commander,
Was, by King HENRY, dubb'd Sir ALEXANDER.

Vic'try continues on the French to smile,
And we lose TALBOT and the valiant LISLE:
Now YORK and LANCASTER with fury glow,
And Roses, red and white, alternate blow.
YORK heads *St. Alban's* battle, and the King,
Wounded, defeated, and in rebel hands,
Begins, as Avon's swan doth sweetly sing,
To envy peasants on his humblest lands.
The Duke of YORK protector they create,
And on a thread depends King HENRY's fate;
Next year the new protector is displaced,
And HENRY, once more, with dominion graced:
Now mark a strange reverse, the Frenchmen land
At Sandwich, fifteen thousand from their band
In Devonshire and Cornwal too, to make
Reprisals on old England they begin,
And unprotected spoil they burn or take;
Thus have we war without, and war within.
YORK, at Bloreheath, in sanguinary fight,
Depress'd the red rose, to exalt the white;
At LUDLOW battle HENRY's fortune led,
To crush the white and elevate the red;

North-

Northampton's contest turns the scale again,
A fatal field to HARRY and his reign.
When treacherous RUTHYN, most disloyal GREY,
Deserting, changed the fortune of the day,
The King again is prisoner, and the crown
Decreed to pass to YORK's descendants down;
But martial MARGARET, on Wakefield's plains,
Her husband's honor manfully regains;
YORK, late triumphant, fierce defeat appals,
And crimsoned o'er, "the white rose leader falls."
EDWARD his son his better fortune tries,*
And fickle vict'ry from HENRY flies;
The QUEEN again essays the doubtful field,
And now once more the white rose banners yield.
This second battle of St. Alban's fought,
Redeem'd the captive King, but still it brought
No true advantage:—London chose to name
EDWARD of YORK their Sovereign, he came:
The shadow only of poor HAL remain'd,
Who from this time in substance never reigned.
After events which EDWARD's life will tell,
By crooked GLOUCESTER's sword King HENRY fell.

* At Mortimer's Cross.

A man

A man, tho' weak, of pious, blameless life,
Foil'd by his friends, and governed by his wife;
The last a foible you may often see
In other folks besides him, you, or me.
Eaton and Cambridge each a College owe
To HENRY's bounty.* Of no man the foe,
Unless it were himself. He deemed each woe
He suffered here, correction kindly sent
From Heaven, in lieu of future punishment,
A gracious earnest given to insure
Him bliss, where bliss can only long endure.†

* Queen Margaret founded Queen's College, Cambridge; Archbishop Chicheley, All Souls and Bernard's College, Oxon; and Wainfleet, Bishop of Winchester, founded Magdalen College there.

† To a Ruffian who struck him in the face, while prisoner, he only said, "Forsooth you do wrong to strike your anointed King;" and when some ladies appeared at a masque with their necks apparelled too much like our modern fashion, he exclaimed with characteristic simplicity, "Fie, fie, for shame—in sooth you are to blame."

END OF VOL. I.

Harrnell, Wine-Office Court, Fleet-Street.

ERRATA.

Page 54, line 10, for *Scandanavian* read Scandinavian.
..... 62, ... 9, dele Parenthesis.
..... 87, ... 5 from bottom, for *Edita* read Editha.
..... 105, ... 2 from bottom, for *Duntan* read Dunstan.
..... 151, last line, for *I* read we.
..... 155, first line, for *Monk's* read Monks.
..... 156, line 16, for *gave* read 'gan.
..... 161, last line, for *Margerion* read MARMION.
..... 189, line 4, for *pros'trate* read prostrate.
..... 238, ... 10, for *curtesy* read courtesy.
..... 256, ... 21, for *Meudlla* read Medulla.
..... 270, ... 8, dele Semicolon.
..... 273, ... 10, for *line* read lines.

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